

**1996/1997 - OYSTER DATA REPORT**

**Series No. 2**

**95/96 OYSTER PRODUCTION AND DENSITIES AND STOCK  
ASSESSMENT FOR THE 1996-97 OYSTER SEASON ON LOUISIANA  
PUBLIC OYSTER GROUNDS.**

**PREPARED BY:**

**RONALD J. DUGAS  
ROBERT L. ANCELET**

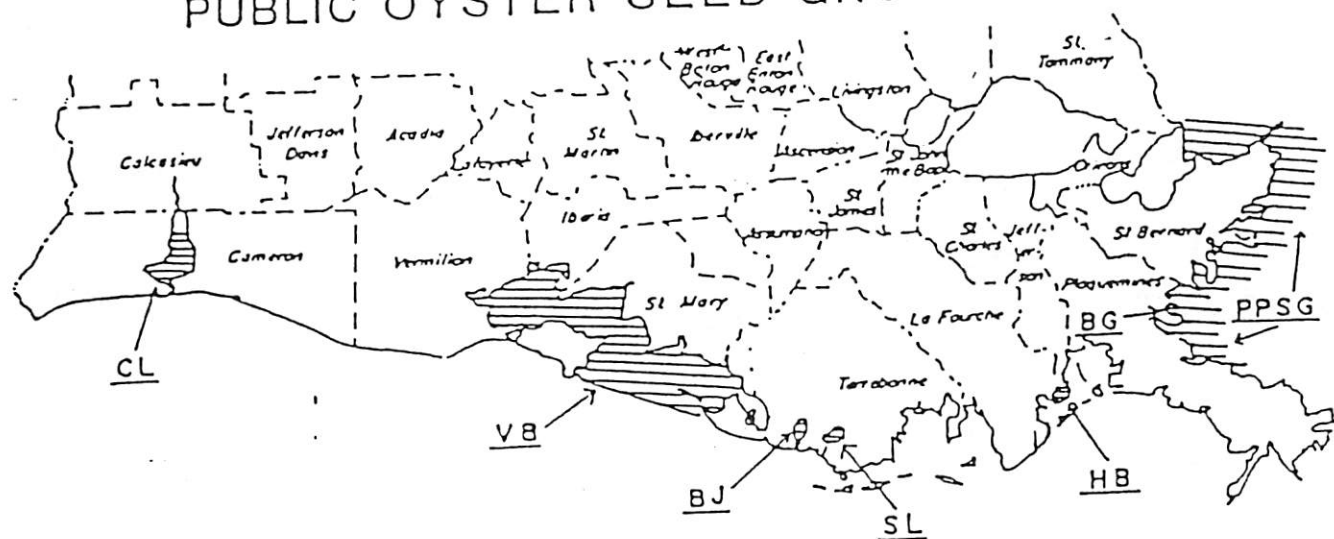
**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES**

**AUGUST 1996**

## **INTRODUCTION**

In Louisiana, there are almost 2 million acres of public reef/seed grounds, although only a relatively small portion of this area has the hard bottom substrate necessary for the existence of oysters. These public reefs are opened each year in the fall and winter both to lessees who may wish to transplant oysters to their leases and to other fishermen who may wish to harvest oysters and bring them directly to market. Each year in the summer biological samples (Figure 3) are taken on these reefs and the results used to make recommendations as to opening and closing of areas to harvest and to advise the oyster industry on the availability of oysters on these reefs.

## PUBLIC OYSTER SEED GROUNDS

**LEGEND**

- PPSG—PRIMARY OYSTER SEED GROUNDS  
 BG—BAY GARDENS OYSTER SEED RESERVATION  
 HB—HACKBERRY BAY OYSTER SEED RESERVATION  
 SL—SISTER LAKE OYSTER SEED RESERVATION  
 BJ—BAY OF JEAN BAPTISTE OYSTER SEED RESERVATION  
 VB—VERMILION BAY OYSTER SEED GROUNDS  
 CL—CALCASIEU LAKE PUBLIC TONGING GROUNDS

Figure 1. Louisiana Public Oyster Seed Grounds, Oyster Seed Reservation and Public Tonging Grounds.

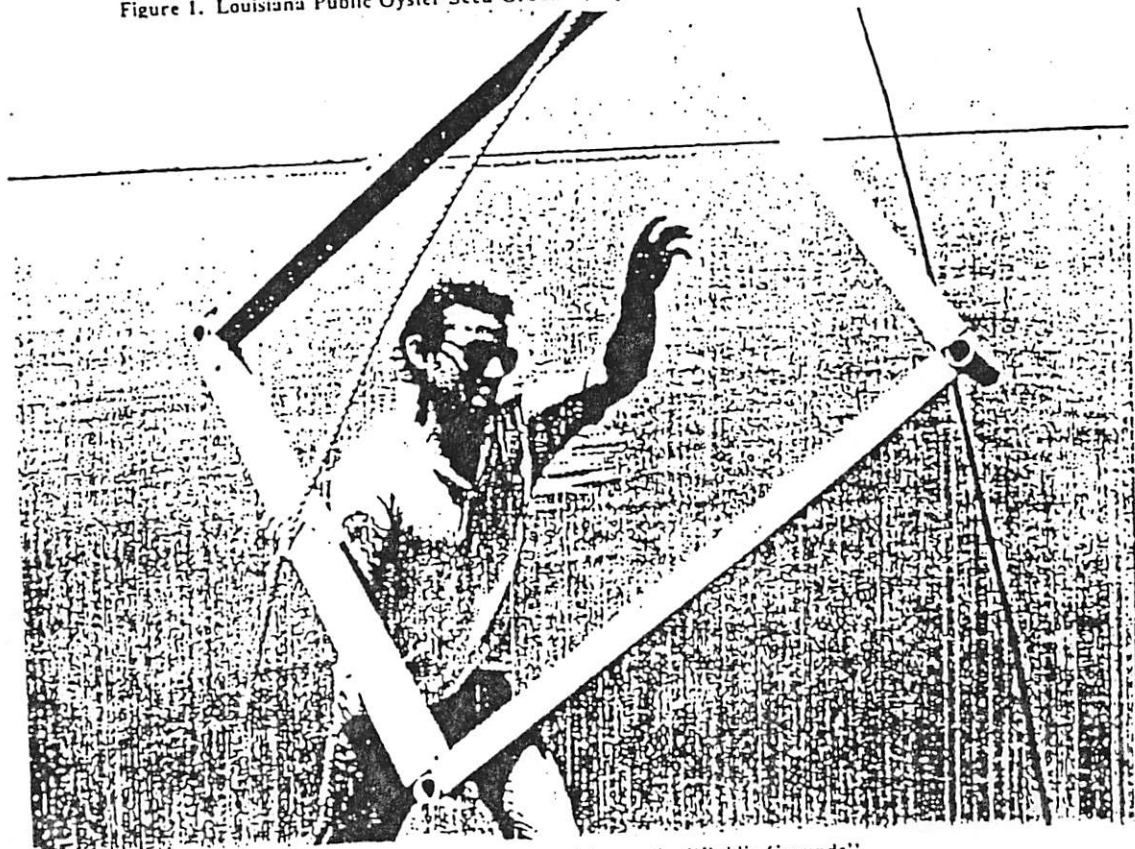
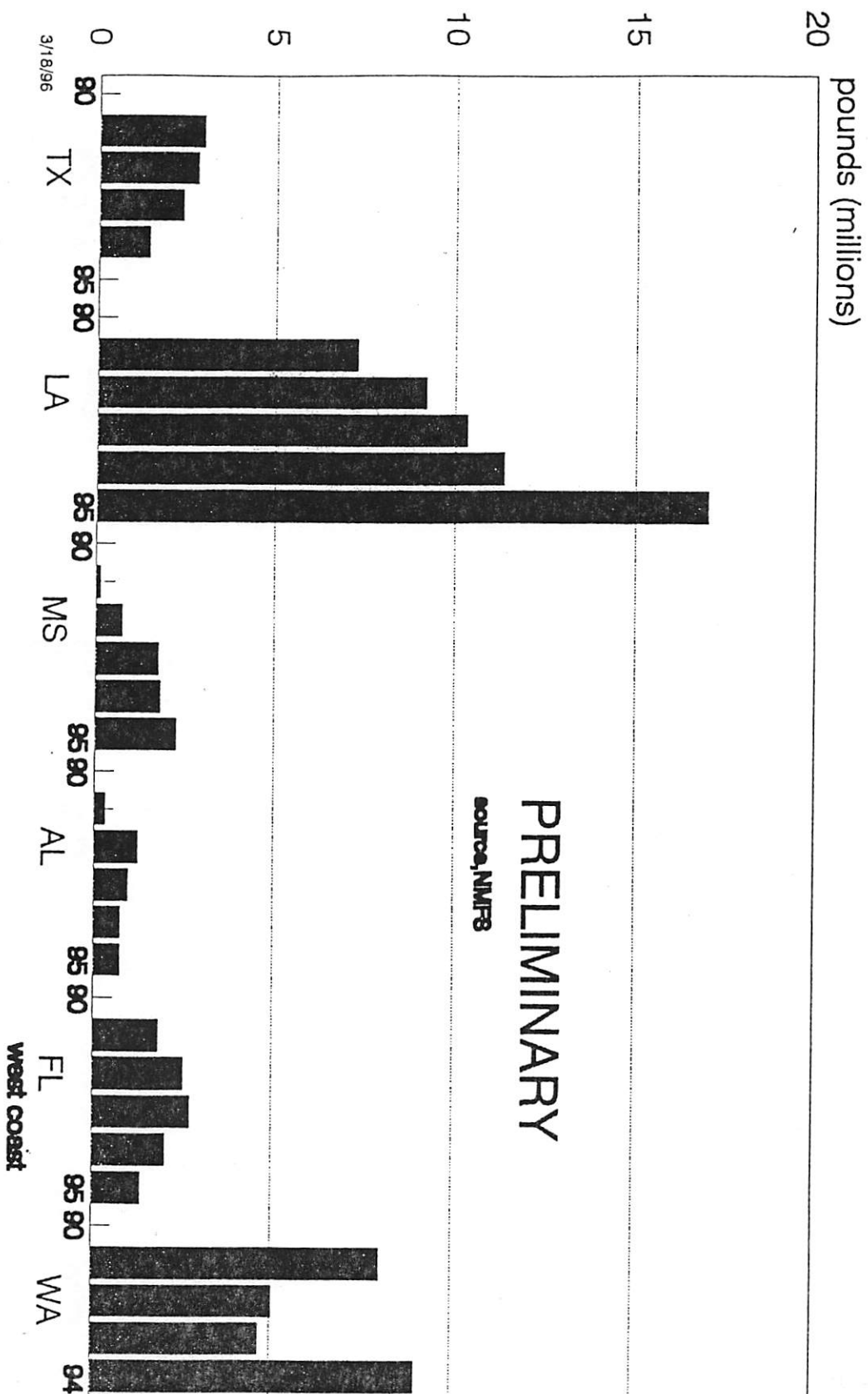


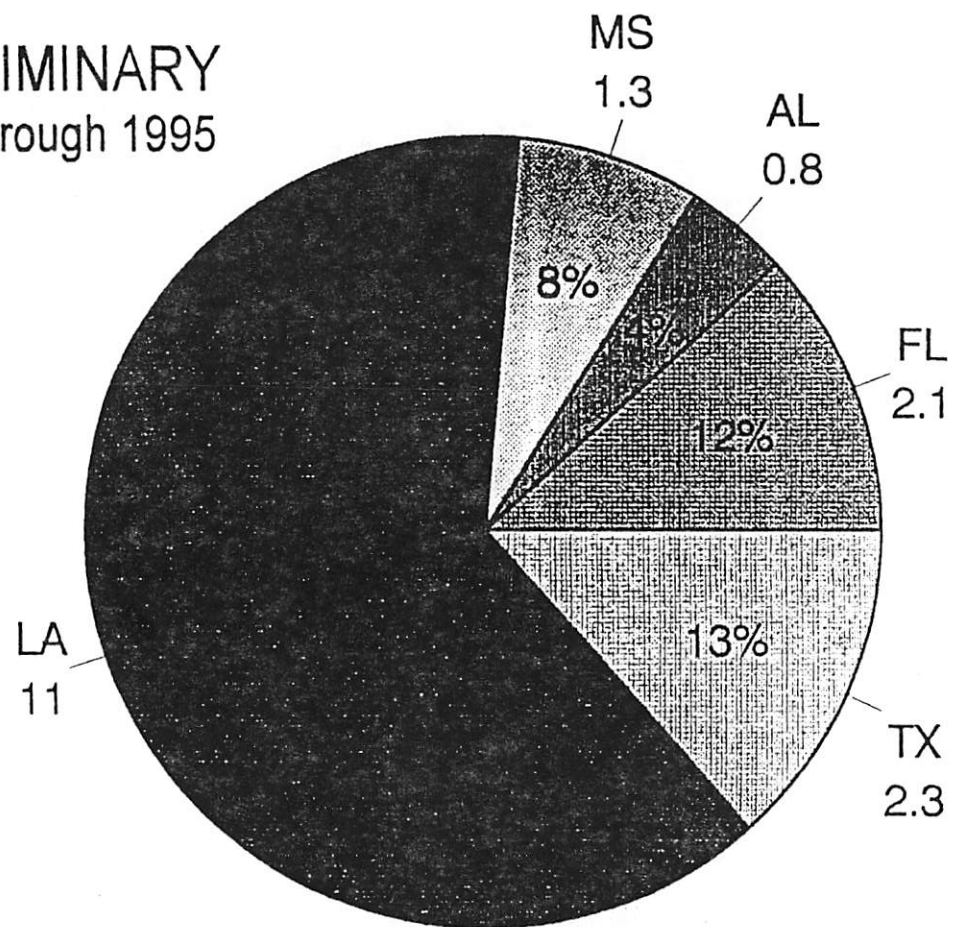
Figure 3. Meter square sampling for oyster densities on the "Public Grounds".

# OYSTER LANDINGS GULF STATES and WASHINGTON STATE



OYSTER LANDINGS  
Gulf of Mexico

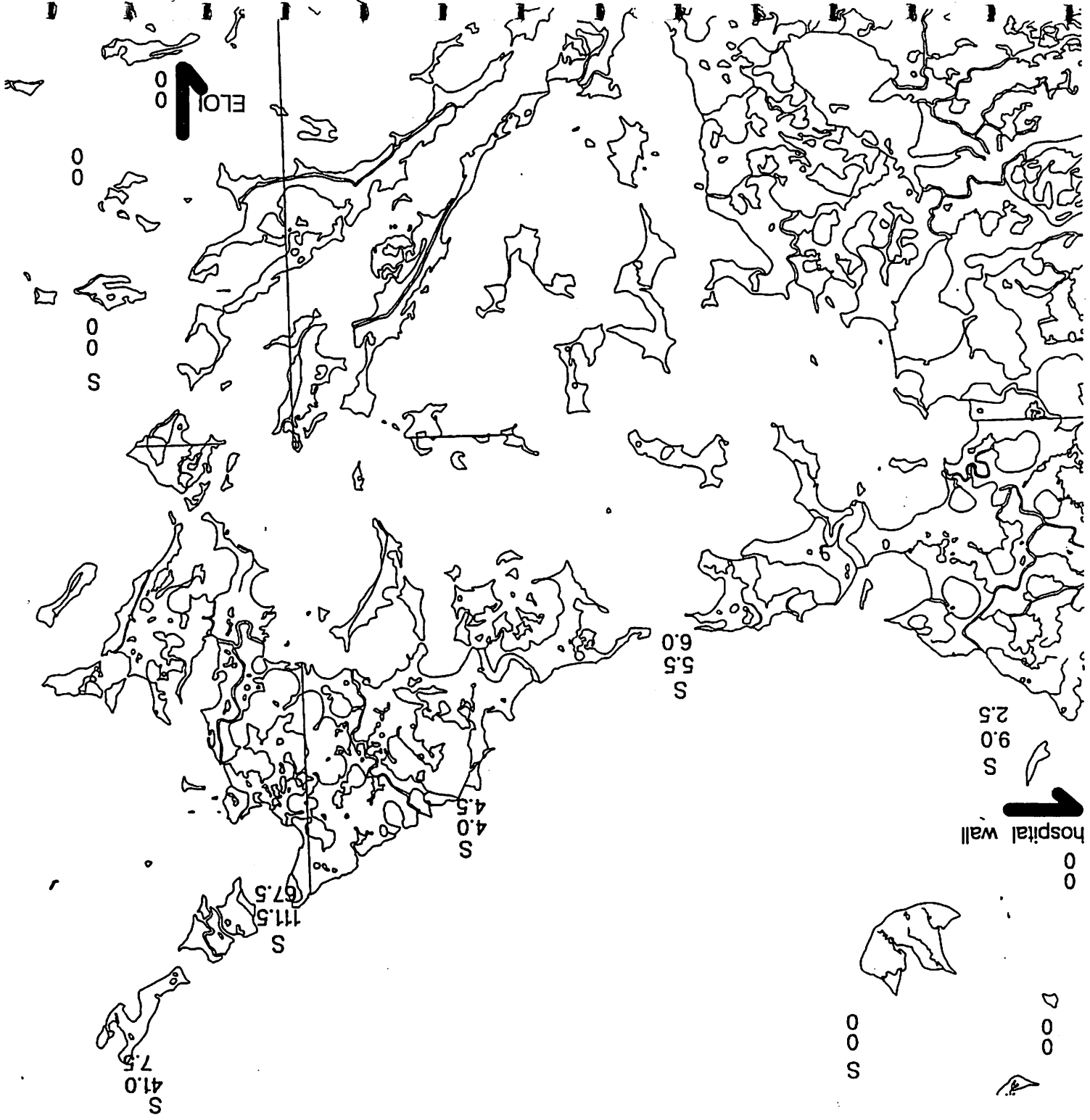
PRELIMINARY  
1991 through 1995



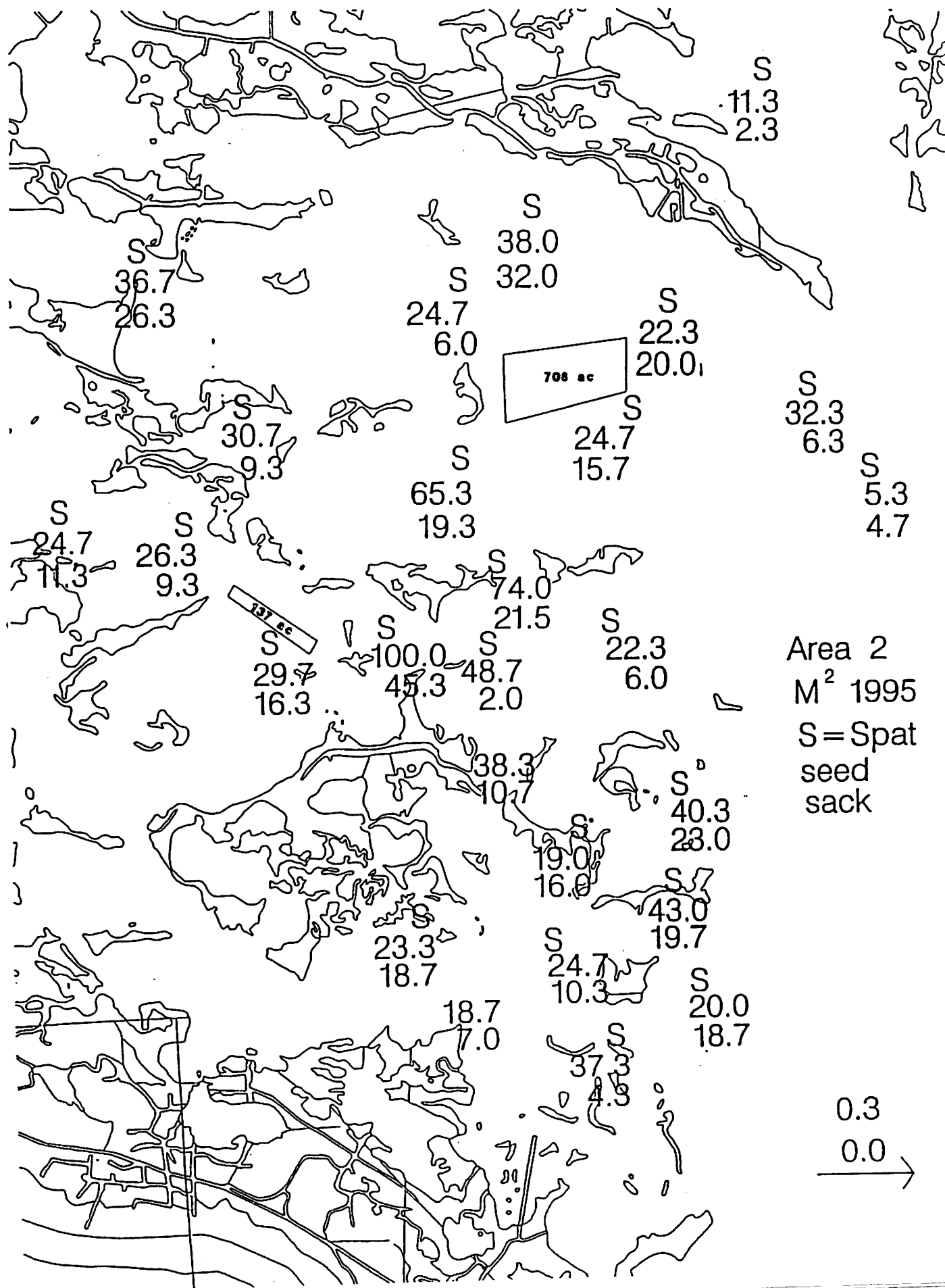
millions of pounds / percentages

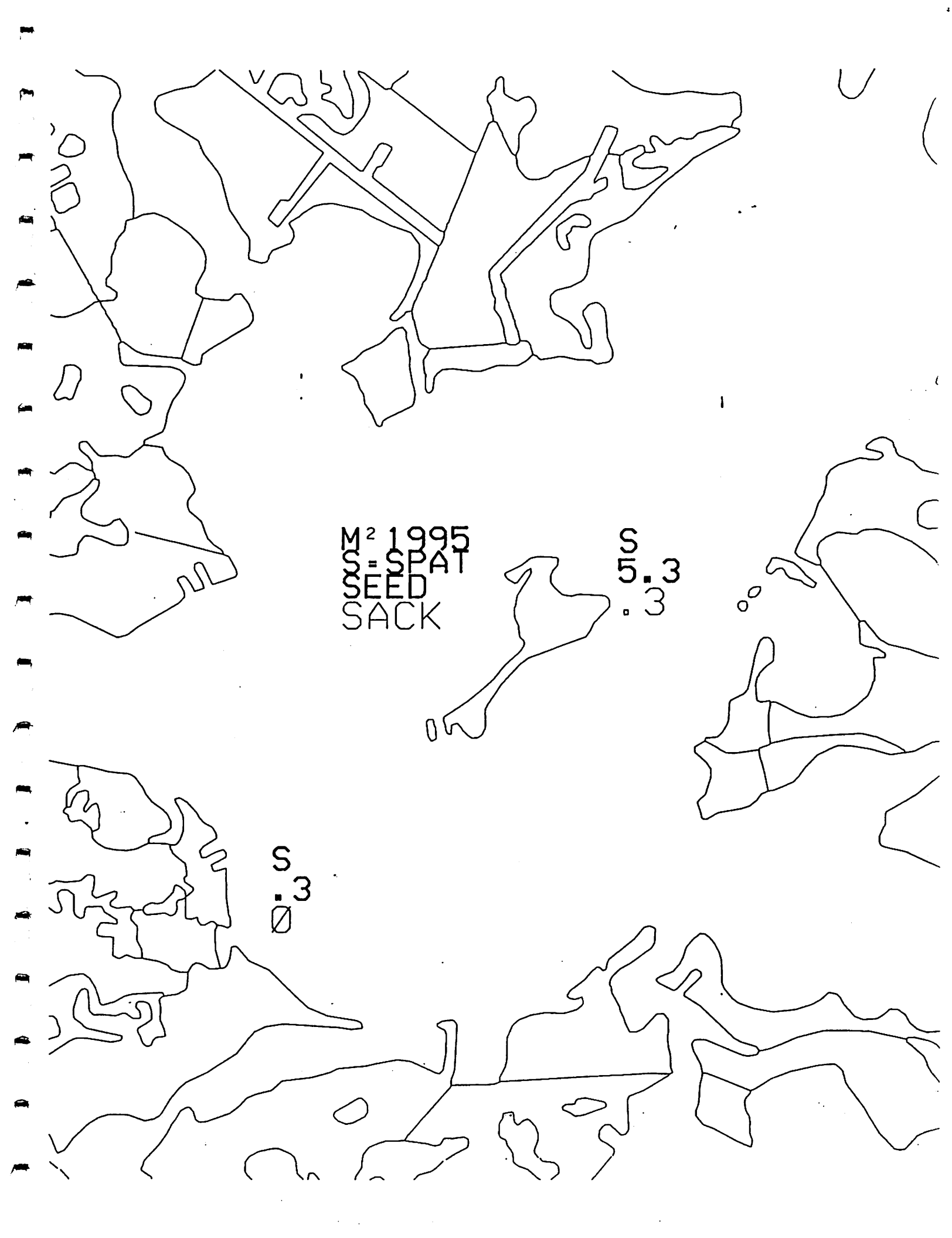
**1995/96 M<sup>2</sup> SAMPLES AND STOCK ASSESSMENT**

Area 1  
M<sup>2</sup> 1995  
S = Spat  
Seed  
Sack





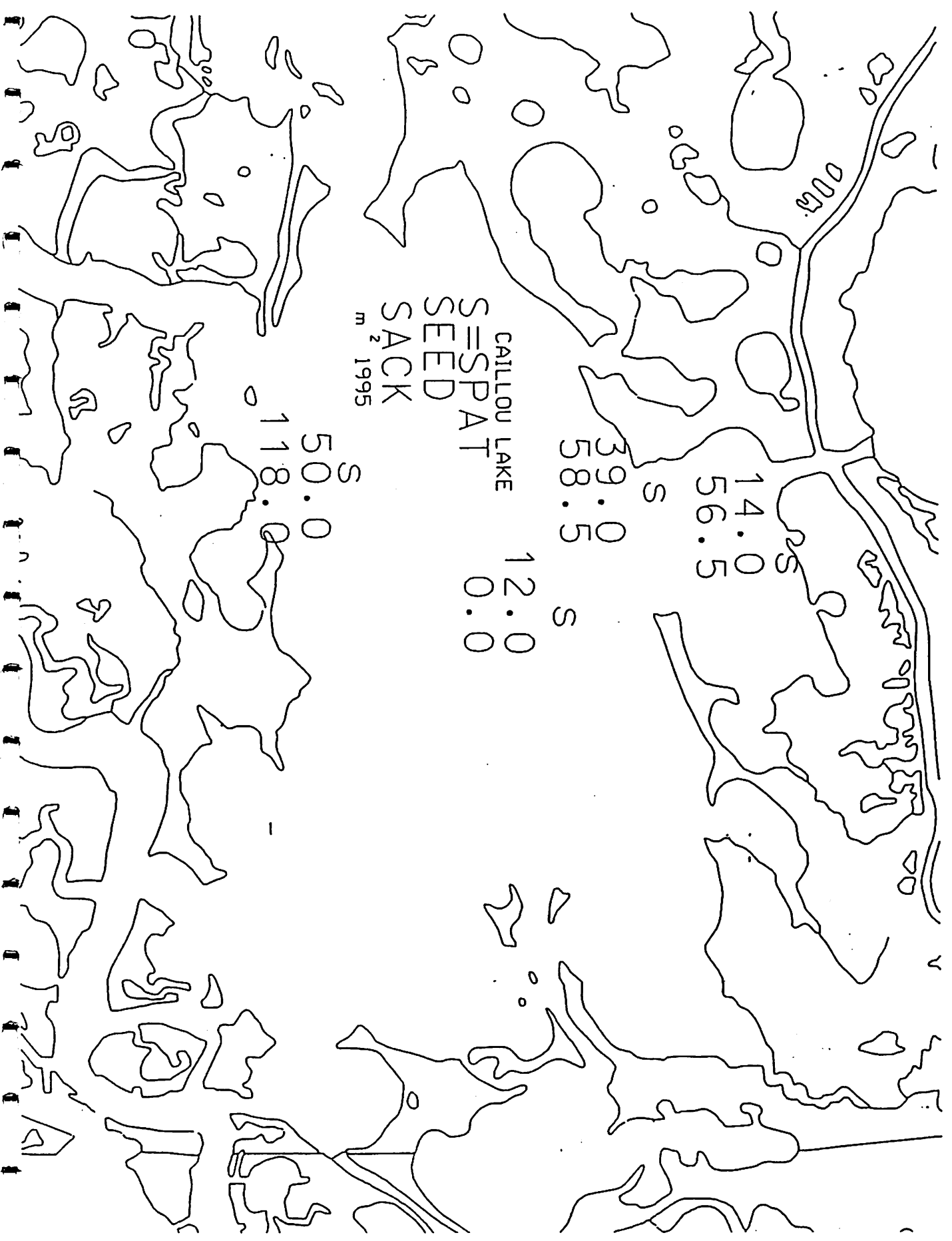




M<sup>2</sup> 1995  
SS = SPAT  
SEED  
SACK

S  
3.3

S  
3



CAILLOU LAKE  
SEED SACK  
m<sup>2</sup> 1995

14.0  
56.5

39.0  
58.5

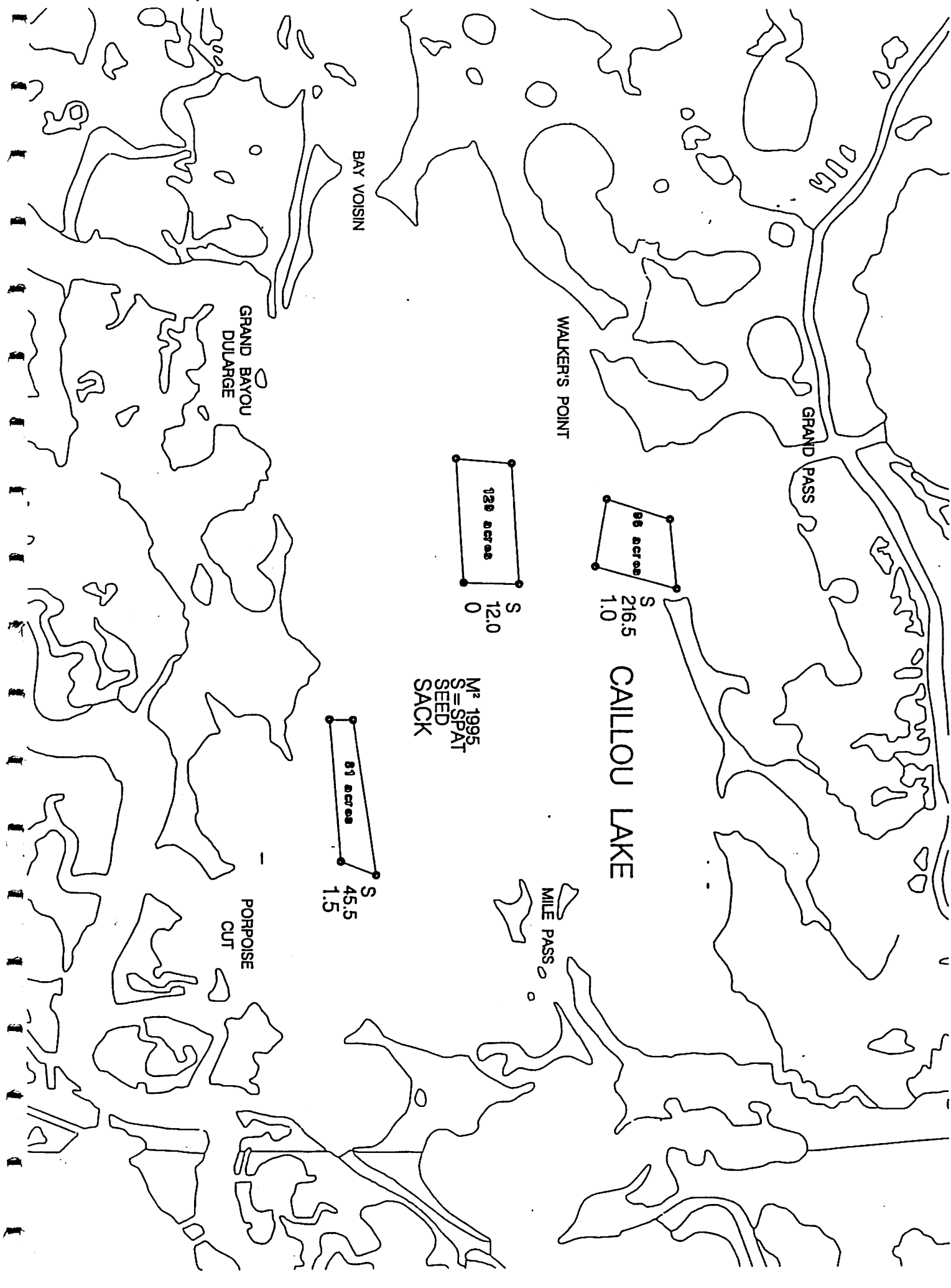
12.0  
0.0

50.0  
118.0

S

S

S

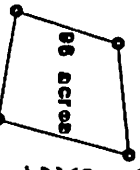


BAY VOISIN

GRAND BAYOU  
DU LARGE

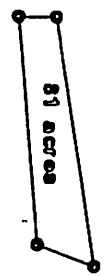
WALKER'S POINT

GRAND PASS



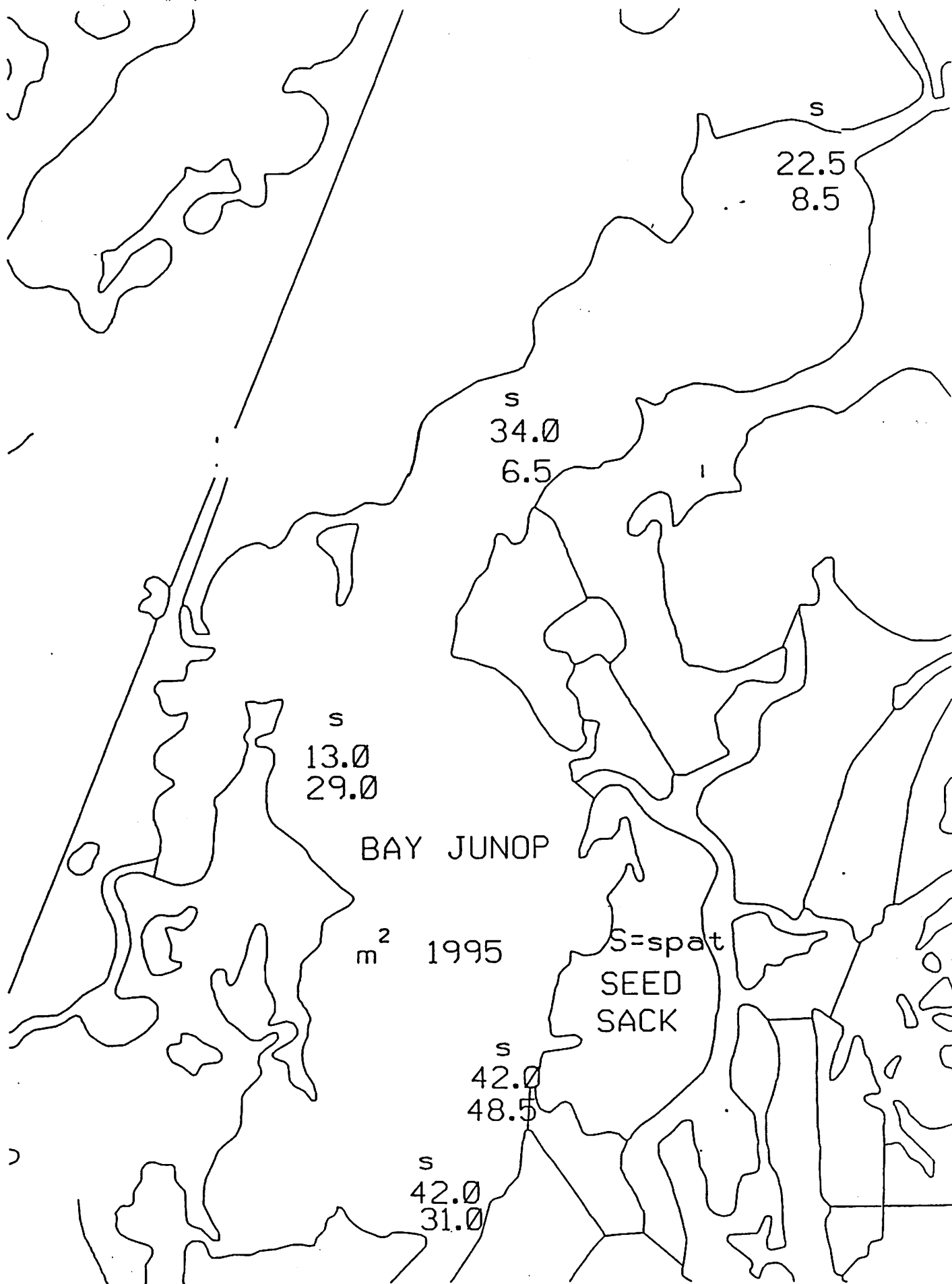
CALLLOU LAKE

Mr. 1995  
S=SPAT  
SACK

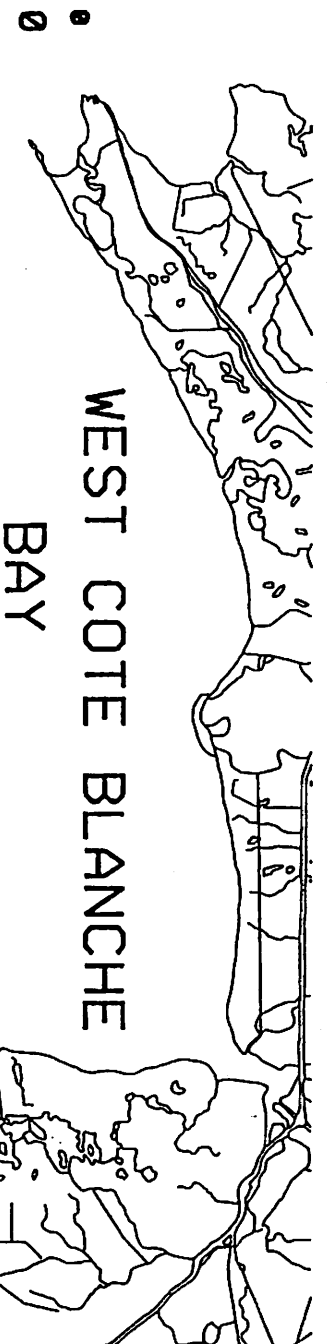


MILE PASS

PORPOISE  
CUT



VERMILION BAY



WEST COTE BLANCHE  
BAY

INDIAN  
POINT



MARSH ISLAND

M<sup>2</sup> 1995  
S-SPAT  
SEED  
SACK

SOUTH POINT

EAST COTE  
BLANCHE  
BAY



# OYSTER PRODUCTION IN CALCASIEU LAKE AUGUST 1995

## OYSTER NUMBERS

WESTSIDE					EASTSIDE				
SIZE	STATION			AVE.	SIZE	STATION			AVE.
	4	5	6			1	2	3	
> 3"	40	63	81	30.7	> 3"	64	33	29	21.0
1-3"	34	28	60	20.3	1-3"	28	38	31	16.2

## OYSTER PRODUCTION AREA

WESTSIDE	EASTSIDE
2,942,076.67 SQ. METERS	3,901,185.57 SQ. METERS

## PRODUCTION OF > 3" OYSTERS

WESTSIDE		EASTSIDE	
OYSTERS:	90,321,753.769	OYSTERS:	81,924,896.970
SACKS:	501,788	SACKS:	455,138
TOTAL SACKS OF > 3" OYSTERS:		956,926	

## PRODUCTION OF 1-3" OYSTERS

WESTSIDE		EASTSIDE	
OYSTERS:	59,724,156.401	OYSTERS:	63,199,206.234
SACKS:	165,900	SACKS:	175,553
TOTAL SACKS OF 1-3" OYSTERS:		341,453	

## TOTAL PRODUCTION

TOTAL OVERALL POTENTIAL OF OYSTERS (SACKS):	1,298,379
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**1995/96 OYSTER PRODUCTION  
PUBLIC OYSTER GROUNDS**



*State of Louisiana*



James H. Jenkins, Jr.  
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Post Office Box 98000  
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000  
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster  
Governor

**MEMORANDUM**

May 15, 1996

**TO: Ron Dugas, Oyster Program Manager**

**FROM: John Burdon, Proj. Coord. CSA-I**

**SUBJECT: Estimated Oyster Production from state waterbottoms  
(CSA-I) (Louisiana) (1995-1996)**

Estimated production from state waterbottoms to include the April 1996 extension in CSA-I.

Month	Sacks (Market)	Seed (Barrels)
September 1995	12,800	3,000
October 1995	29,900	10,000
November 1995	38,760	17,500
December 1995	51,260	21,000
January 1996	67,000	46,000
February 1996	61,760	42,000
March 1996	69,880	44,300
April 1996	30,600	6,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>361,960</b>	<b>189,800</b>

# State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.  
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
1600 Canal Street  
New Orleans, LA 70112  
(504)568-5667

M.J. "Mike" Foster  
Governor

May 16, 1996

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Ron Dugas, Oyster Program Manager

FROM: Robert L. Ancelet, Coastal Study Area II

SUBJECT: 95/96 Oyster Season in C.S.A. II

The 1995-96 oyster season opened on the public seed grounds in Coastal Study Area II at 1/2 hour before sunrise on Sept. 6, 1995. Again, a "sacking only" area was declared in Lake Fortuna, and Bay Gardene was open. The opening day seas were heavy, four to five feet, allowing only large boats to fish Lake Fortuna, Black Bay and Breton Sound. Smaller boats were fishing in the protected waters of northern California Bay. Seventy boats were sacking in grid 49 at a rate of 150 sacks per boat. Twelve boats were bedding in grids 48 and 49, and making approximately 400 barrels per boat.

Again mortalities were reported from the saline waters of Breton Sound. The possibility of "dermo" was considered.

Prices were \$13.00 per sack dockside with prices as high as \$14.00 and as low as \$12.00 during the season. Demand declined as the season progressed causing fishing to slow, but never dropping below 50,000 sacks per month.

The yield varied between 5 and 6 pints per sack.

Oyster production for the 1995-96 season in Coastal Study Area II by month by grid was as follows

Ron Dugas  
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May 16, 1996

<u>Month</u>	<u>Grid</u>	<u>Sacks</u>	<u>Barrels</u>
September, 1995	40	6,280	0
	46	450	0
	47	540	2,400
	48	17,470	26,050
	49	78,555	24,200
	55	2,660	4,800
	56	10,910	32,450
	57	32,470	2,800
	62	8,070	2,400
	63	14,325	16,800
	69	5,310	4,800
<b>Total</b>		<b>177,040</b>	<b>116,700</b>

<u>Month</u>	<u>Grid</u>	<u>Sacks</u>	<u>Barrels</u>
October, 1995	40	700	0
	46	4,030	0
	47	1,830	16,400
	48	2,020	6,300
	49	16,190	3,750
	54	2,970	0
	55	5,205	1,600
	56	4,730	2,300
	57	3,730	3,600
	62	21,580	800
	63	9,135	6,050
69	12,670	0	
<b>Total</b>		<b>84,790</b>	<b>40,800</b>

<u>Month</u>	<u>Grid</u>	<u>Sacks</u>	<u>Barrels</u>
November, 1995	40	11,358	0
	46	2,898	0
	47	112	6,525
	49	29,788	0
	56	3,515	0
	57	5,970	0
	62	10,512	0
	63	907	0
69	909	0	
<b>Total</b>		<b>66,238</b>	<b>6,525</b>

Ron Dugas  
Page 3  
May 16, 1996

<u>Month</u>	<u>Grid</u>	<u>Sacks</u>	<u>Barrels</u>
December, 1995	38	470	0
	39	3,450	0
	40	7,490	0
	46	2,035	0
	47	1,065	0
	48	9,035	0
	49	23,465	0
	56	4,080	0
	57	2,180	0
	62	1,460	0
	63	680	0
	68	390	0
	69	1,440	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>57,240</b>	<b>0</b>

<u>Month</u>	<u>Grid</u>	<u>Sacks</u>	<u>Barrels</u>
January, 1996	38	1,500	0
	39	3,150	0
	40	5,400	0
	46	200	0
	47	2,600	3,000
	48	10,500	0
	49	7,900	0
	55	450	0
	56	6,350	0
	57	9,600	0
	62	550	0
	63	6,750	0
	<b>Total</b>		<b>54,950</b>

Ron Dugas  
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May 16, 1996

<u>Month</u>	<u>Grid</u>	<u>Sacks</u>	<u>Barrels</u>
February, 1996	39	3,080	0
	40	8,645	2,100
	46	665	0
	47	430	2,400
	48	1,290	6,650
	49	6,195	0
	55	1,095	0
	56	13,440	0
	57	6,520	0
	62	3,045	0
	63	4,200	0
	68	140	0
	69	3,085	0
Total		51,830	11,150

<u>Month</u>	<u>Grid</u>	<u>Sacks</u>	<u>Barrels</u>
March, 1996	55	1,100	0
	56	0	5,100
	62	6,465	0
	63	8,150	4,550
	68	2,850	0
	69	1,680	0
Total		20,245	9,650

<u>Month</u>	<u>Grid</u>	<u>Sacks</u>	<u>Barrels</u>
April, 1996	62	3,975	0
	63	2,625	5,250
	69	1,200	0
Total		7,800	5,250
Season Total		520,133	193,075

Black Bay (grids 46, 478, 48, 49, 54, 55, and 56) were closed by the Dept. of Health and Hospitals from February 23, 1996 to April 13, 1996. This virtually cut out production from these grids (47,48,49,55, and 56) during this time period. This area was closed following an outbreak of a viral illness.

Ron Dugas  
Page 5  
May 16, 1996

A small area around Stone Island was closed after the waters there failed to meet coliform standards. This closure was declared on April 10, 1996 and extended indefinitely.

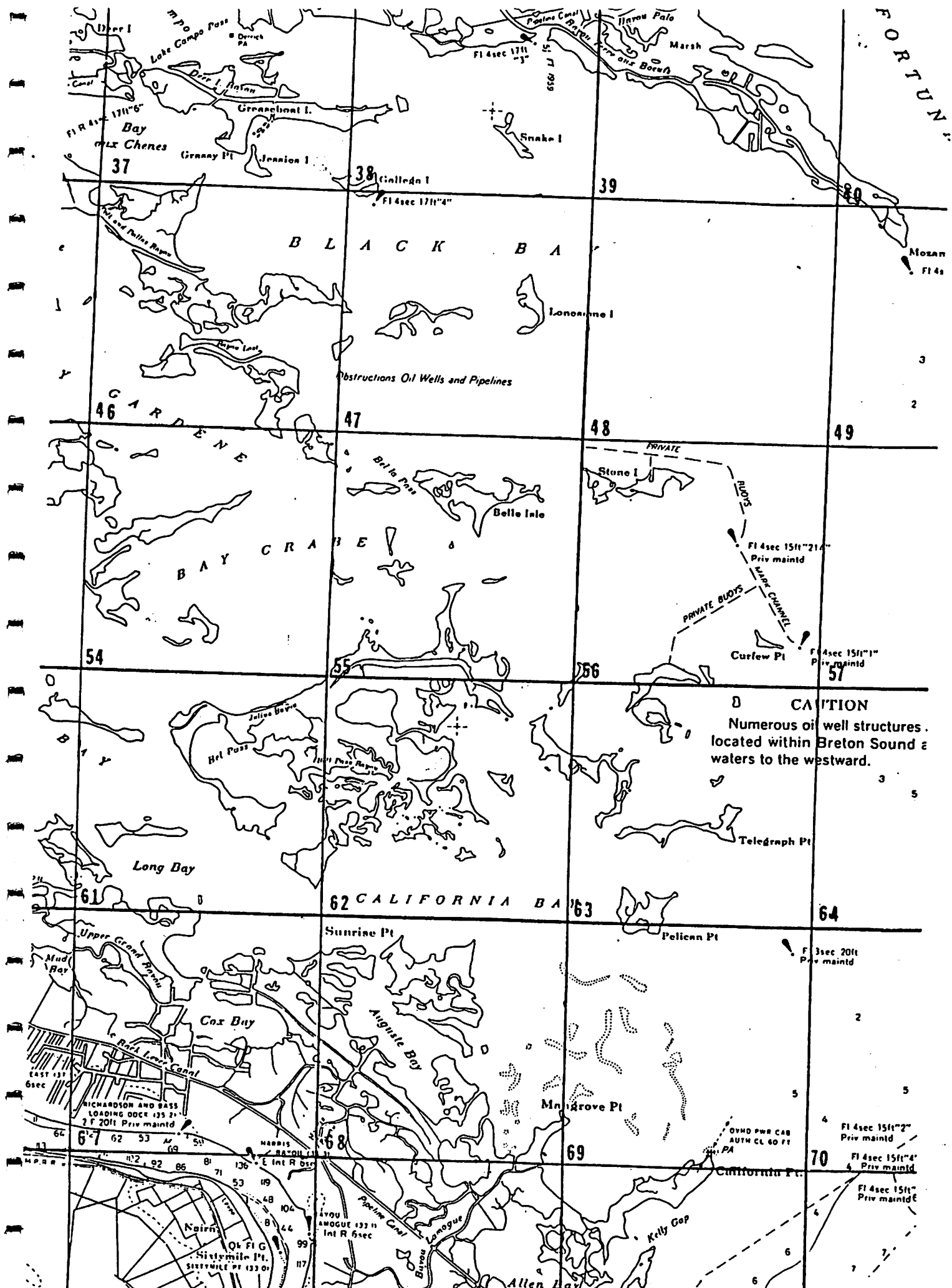
The regular oyster season closed on April 1, 1996, however, it was reopened on April 12, 1996 and extended to April 30, 1996. Severe weather conditions during this time period resulted in poor production. (see production for April).

Early in the season, the problem of mortalities in Black Bay and Breton Sound was addressed. Oysters samples wee obtained on November 1, 1995 (see report). Nine samples showed the presence of the oyster disease Perkinsus. Based on recent mortalities, this disease killed approximately 20% of the oysters throughout the area.

Most of our 95/96 oysters were produced on the outer reefs of Black Bay and Breton Sound. Approximately 1/2 of all sacks were fished in grid 49. Grid 57 produced almost 12 percent of the oysters.

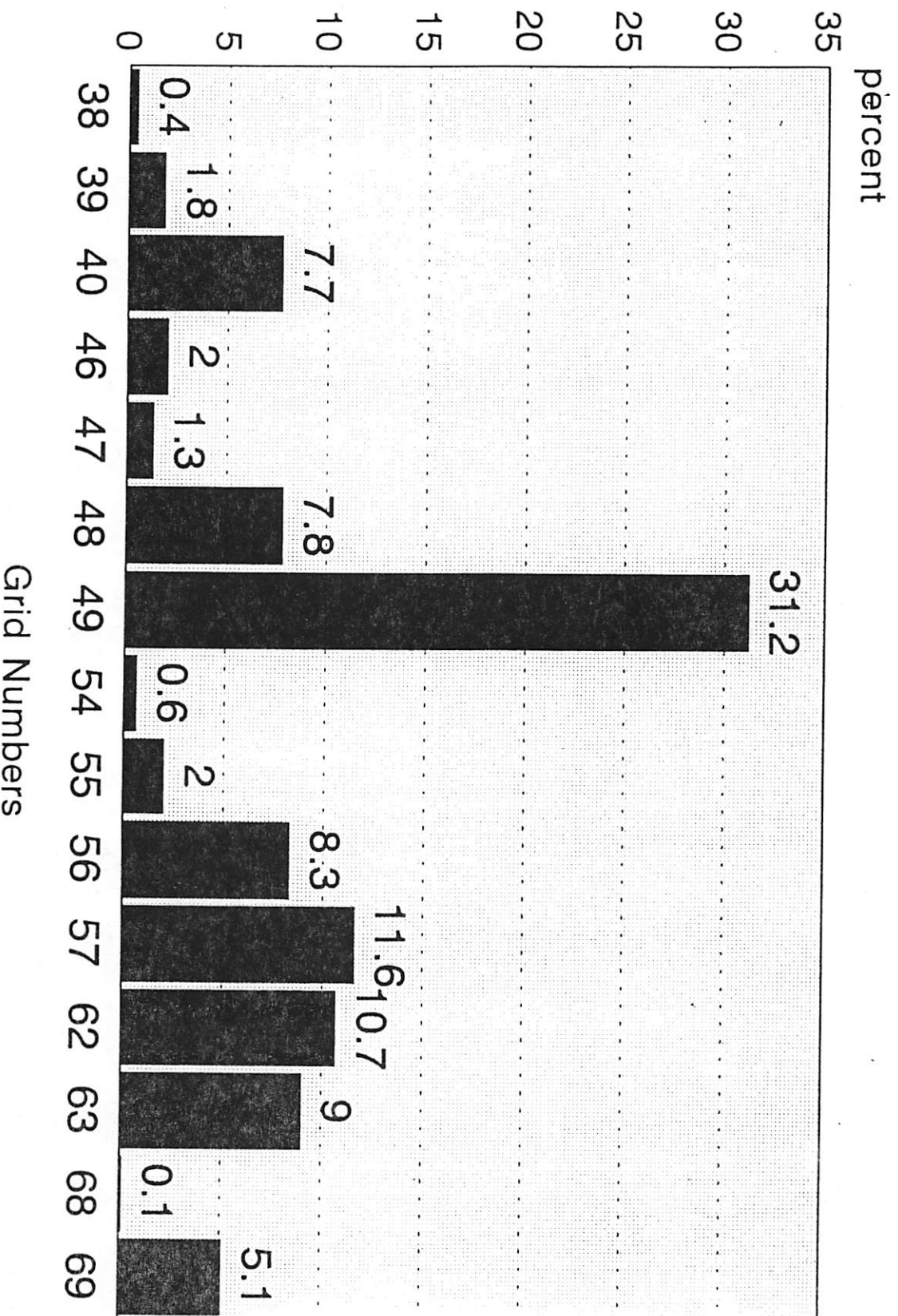
Seed oysters for the 95/96 season were produced primarily in North Black Bay. Grids 47,48, and 49 produced 50% of the seed oysters for the entire area. Most of these seed oysters were fished in September.

RLA:ymw  
cc: Phil Bowman  
Greg Laiche



# 1996 SACK OYSTER PRODUCTION

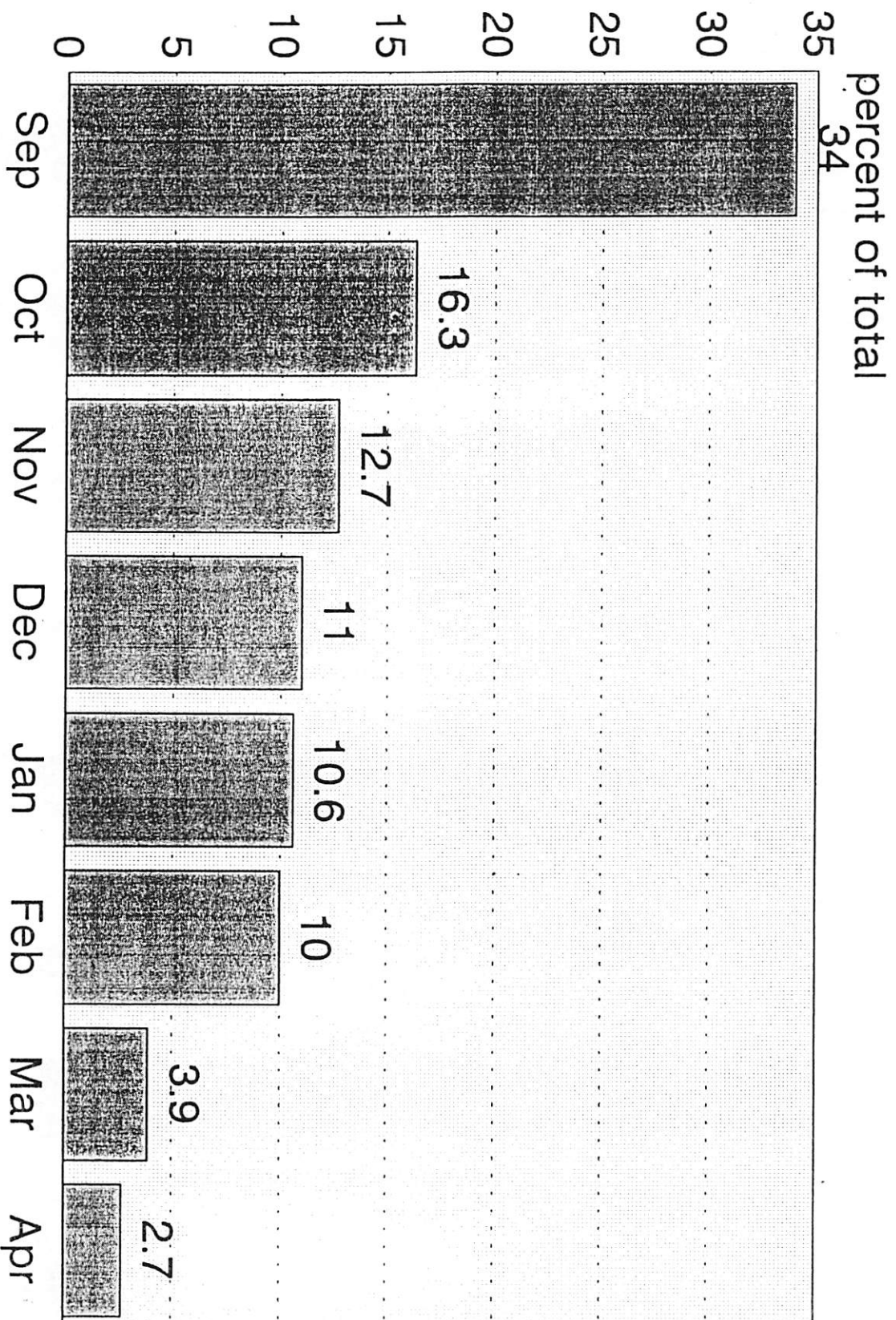
## Breton Sound Basin Public Grounds





# SACK PRODUCTION

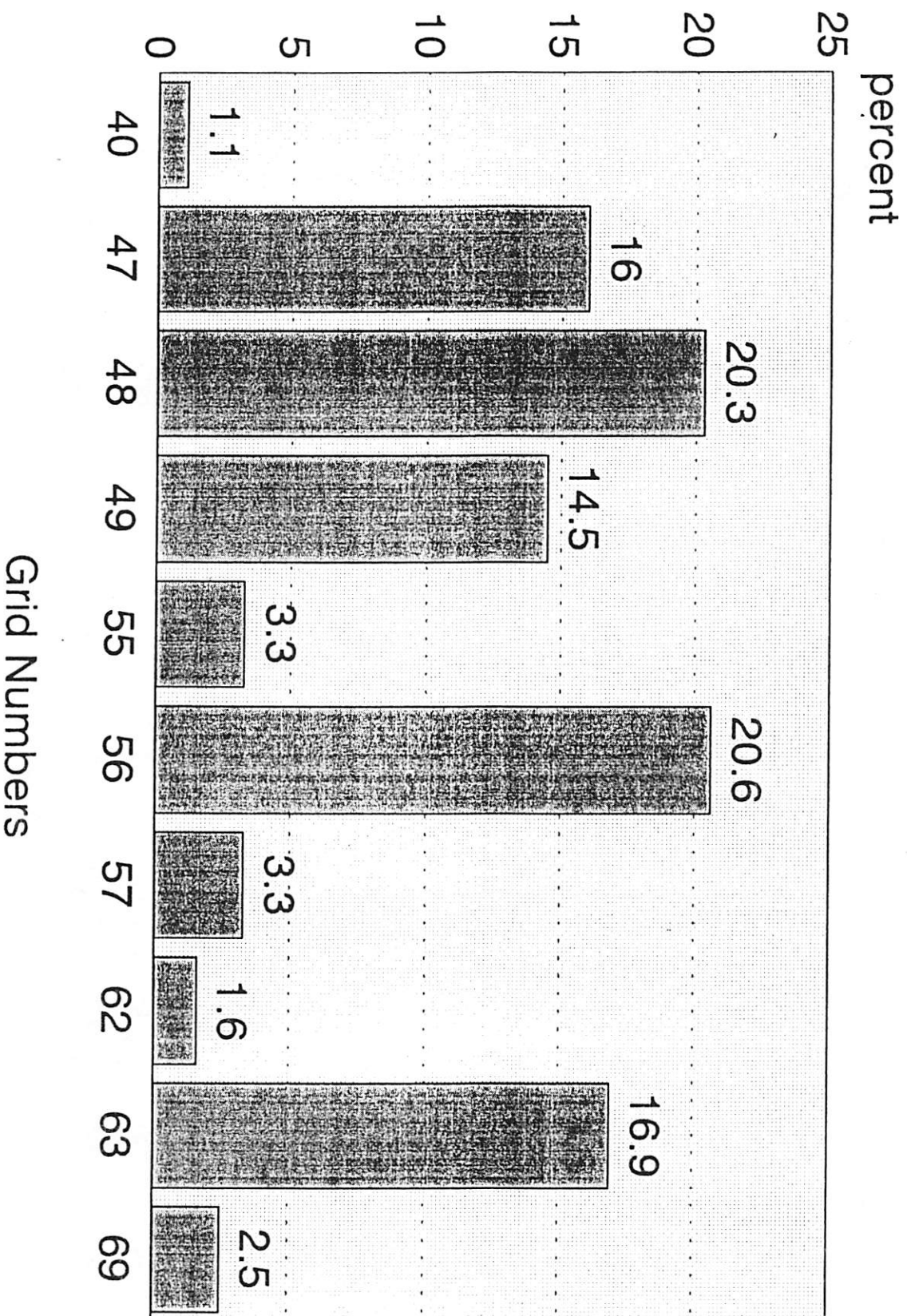
Breton Sound Basin Public Grounds



95/96 season

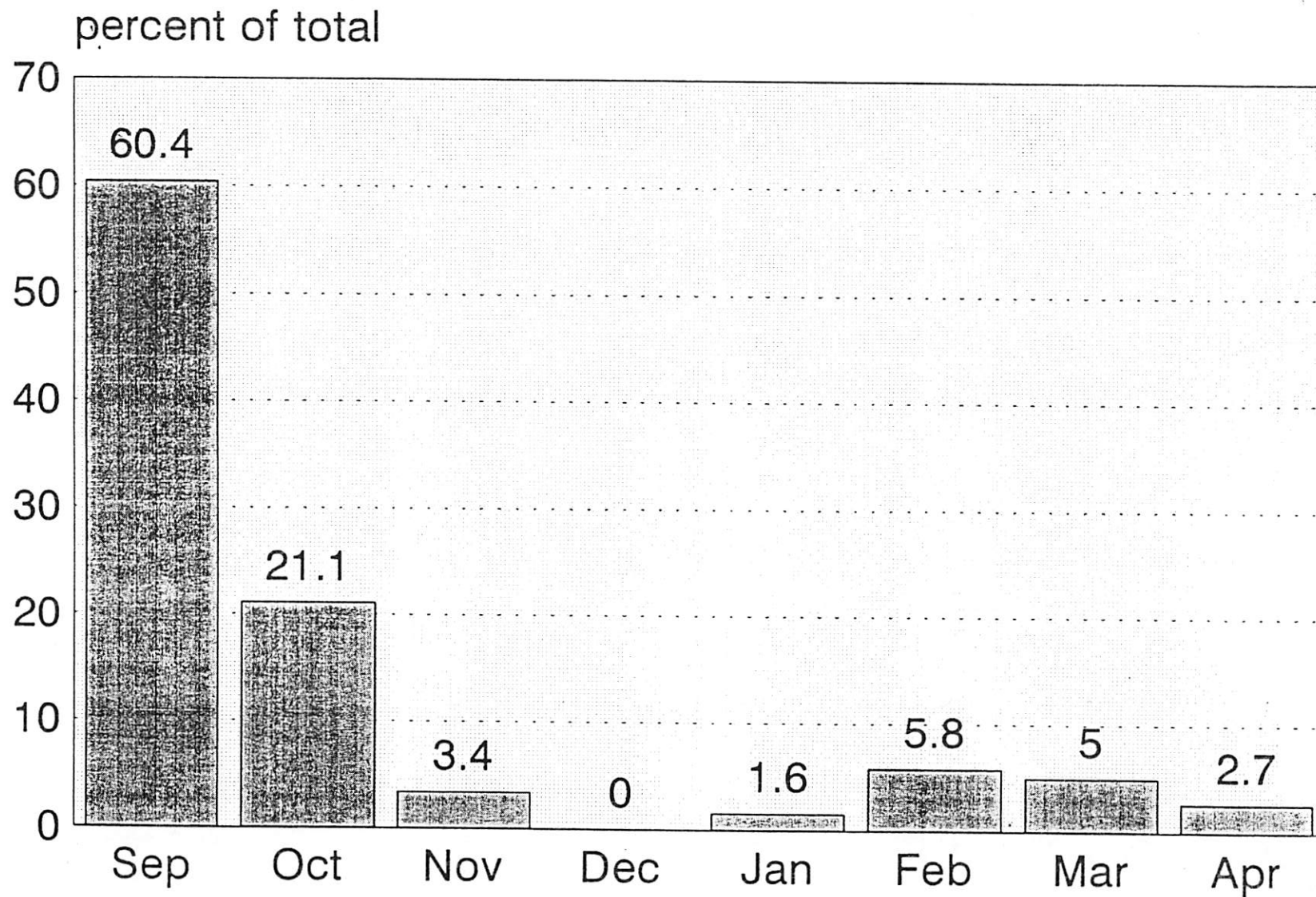
# 1996 SEED OYSTER PRODUCTION

Breton Sound Basin Public Grounds



# SEED PRODUCTION

Breton Sound Basin ♀ Public Grounds



95/96 Season




***State of Louisiana***  
**DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES**  
Lyle S. St. Amant Marine Laboratory  
P. O. Box 37  
Grand Isle, LA 70358  
(504) 568-7620

M.J. "Mike" Foster  
Governor

James H. Jenkins, Jr.  
Secretary

February 29, 1996

To: Ron Dugas, Mollusk Programs Manager  
Marine Fisheries Division

From: Mark Schexnayder, Project Coordinator   
Coastal Study Area 3, Marine Fisheries Division

Re: Hackberry Bay September 95 - April 96 Production

Hackberry Bay Oyster Seed Reservation Production,  
September 1, 1995 to April 30, 1996

Sack Oysters-	9370 sacks
Seed Oysters-	1290 sacks

# State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.  
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Post Office Box 189  
Bourg, LA 70343  
(504)594-4139

M.J. "Mike" Foster  
Governor

May 3, 1996

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Ron Dugas, Oyster Program Manager  
**FROM:** Paul Meier, Senior Field Biologist, CSA-V *Pm*  
**SUBJECT:** Sister Lake 1995-96 Oyster Season Harvest

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The Sister Lake oyster season began on September 6, 1995 and ended on April 30, 1996 with a total of 97,648 sacks and 51,160 barrels of seed oysters harvested for a combined total of 99,984 barrels of production based on our interviews. This is the best production we have had from Sister Lake since the 1982-83 season when we had a total harvest of 90,057 barrels. A total of 13,460 barrels of seed oysters and 4,710 sacks were harvested from the south 1994 shell plant. A total of 400 barrels of seed oysters were harvested from the north 1994 shell plant and no harvest was recorded from the mid 1994 shell plant. Louisiana State Board of Health pollution lines kept the north and mid plants closed most of the season. Only the south 1994 shell plant remained partially or completely open for the entire season.

Boats were often limited as to how many sacks of oysters they could harvest or how many days they could work due to limited sales for oysters. The hard winter we experienced this season often prevented trucks from reaching their destinations in the north and hindered movement of oysters to market. A hard freeze with high winds on February 2, 3, and 4 prevented boats from working in Sister Lake.

At the end of the season boats were still averaging 40-60 sacks per day and our hand dredge samples in March indicated healthy reef conditions with good numbers of both sack and seed oysters still available. Fishermen were getting \$8.00 to \$11.00 per sack for most of the season.

There were no major enforcement violations in Sister Lake of which I am aware. One citation was written for no oyster harvester license the third day of the season, otherwise most boats were in compliance with the regulations. Some boats had trouble determining where the pollution line occurred in Sister Lake, as did we, since it traversed miles of open water in the lake between

Ron Dugas  
Page 2

points of land from November through April.

Salinities in the northern part of Sister Lake have averaged between 6 ppt and 17 ppt since January. Strong south winds ahead of recent cold fronts has increased tides and salinities. Reef conditions were very good in Sister Lake this season and production reflected this and would have been even better except for the market and weather limitations. The season closed on April 1 which is the normal closing date but reopened on April 12 due to a resolution passed by a special session of the Louisiana state legislature which extended the season through April 30. No production occurred from April 2 through April 11 but resumed on April 12 through the season's end on April 30, 1996.

If you need any additional information, please let me know.

PM/jbv

Sister Lake  
1995-96 Oyster Season Harvest from 1994 Shell Plants

Mo./Yr.	North 1994 Plant	Mid 1994 Plant	South 1994 Plant
Sept., 1995	400 Barrels 0 Sacks	0	1,750 Barrels 0 Sacks
Oct., 1995	0	0	500 Barrels 555 Sacks
Nov., 1995	0 <sup>1</sup>	0 <sup>2</sup>	0 Barrels 340 Sacks
Dec., 1995	0	0	0 Barrels 260 Sacks
<b>1995 Total</b>	<b>400 Barrels 0 Sacks</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,250 Barrels 1,140 Sacks</b>
Jan., 1996	0	0	1,100 Barrels 260 Sacks
Feb., 1996	0	0	1,850 Barrels 619 Sacks
Mar., 1996	0 <sup>3</sup>	0 <sup>4</sup>	610 Barrels <sup>5</sup> 938 Sacks
Apr., 1996	0	0	7,650 Barrels 1,738 Sacks
<b>1996 Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,210 Barrels 3,555 Sacks</b>
<b>SEASON TOTAL</b>	<b>400 Barrels 0 Sacks</b>	<b>0 Barrels 0 Sacks</b>	<b>13,460 Barrels 4,710 Sacks</b>

<sup>1</sup> November-February pollution line completely closed this plant.

<sup>2</sup> November-February pollution line closed north portion of this plant.

<sup>3</sup> March-April pollution line kept this plant closed.

<sup>4</sup> March-April pollution line completely closed this plant.

<sup>5</sup> Half this plant closed by March-April pollution line.

# State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.  
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
1213 North Lakeshore Drive  
Lake Charles, LA 70601  
(318)491-2575

M.J. "Mike" Foster  
Governor

June 18, 1996

**MEMORANDUM:**

TO: Ron Dugas, Programs Manager, Oysters  
FROM: Dudley C. Carver, <sup>DC, 444</sup> CSA-VII  
SUBJECT: 1995-96 Oyster Season Production Report

Attached is all the data concerning the oyster season (95-96) in Calcasieu Lake.

The open area and health regulations remained the same this season as last year. Again politics ruled and the season was extended until April 30.

May I suggest that the season dates for next year be set to begin November 1 and end April 30. By setting this time frame we will not have to go through all the trauma and public confusion of the season closing for a few days and then re-opening again.

Sorry for being late with the data, but I just received yesterday the last landings report that had oyster landings data. If you need more information, just let me know.



# 1995-96 CALCASIEU LAKE OYSTER SEASON

TOTAL DAYS IN OYSTER SEASON - 188; 10/16/95 - 3/31/96 AND 4/11 - 4/30/96

SEASON	HEALTH CLOSURES													
	EASTSIDE							WESTCOVE						
	OPEN DATE	CLOSED DATE	TOTAL DAYS	DAYS OPEN	DAYS CLOSED	DAYS OPEN	DAYS CLOSED	OPEN DATE	CLOSED DATE	TOTAL DAYS	DAYS OPEN	DAYS CLOSED	DAYS OPEN	DAYS CLOSED
1995-1996	10-16	3-1	138	125	13	80	58	3-2	3-31	30	30	0	30	0
								4-11	4-30	20	20	0	5	15

## OYSTER LANDINGS FROM DEARLER REPORT IN CSA VII

	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	TOTAL
1995-96	211	3,427	6,066	6,668	8,185	5,268	1,897	29,882

# TOTAL OYSTER LANDINGS FROM DEARLER REPORT IN CSA VII

	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000
OCTOBER	-----	0	-----	211				
NOVEMBER	8,081	2,782	0 <sup>1</sup>	3,427				
DECEMBER	-11,055	5,737	2,061	6,066				
JANUARY	3,025	2,632	2,066	6,668				
FEBRUARY	4,971	1,042	1,378	5,185				
MARCH	196	325	426	5,628				
APRIL	0	300	203	1,897				
TOTAL	27,328	12,818	6,134	29,082				

1 SEASON WAS CLOSED 10-31-94 BY DHH UNTIL 12/10/94.

# OYSTER PRODUCTION IN CALCASIEU LAKE AUGUST 1995

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## TOTAL PRODUCTION

TOTAL OVERALL POTENTIAL OF OYSTERS (SACKS):	1,298,379
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# CALCASIEU LAKE OYSTER SEASON

OCTOBER 1995

[illegible]

# CALCASIEU LAKE OYSTER SEASON

NOVEMBER 1995

DATE	EASTSIDE		WEST COVE		KINDER GAUGE		LAKE CHARLES
	OPEN	CLOSED	OPEN	CLOSED	RIVER LEVEL	RAIN FALL	RAIN FALL
1	X		X		3.06	00.55	0.09
2	X		X		3.87	02.79	2.81
3	X		X		7.32	04.13	0.18
4	X			X	8.9	-	T
5	X			X	8.9	-	T
6	X			X	8.77	04.82	0.07
7	X			X	7.35	06.06	0.76
8	X			X	6.69	06.06	0.00
9	X			X	6.06	00.05	0.00
10	X		X		8.8	-	T
11	X		X		5.5	-	0.36
12	X		X		5.3	-	0.00
13	X		X		5.72	00.07	0.00
14	X		X		6.62	00.07	0.00
15	X		X		6.26	00.07	0.00
16	X		X		5.65	00.07	0.00
17	X		X		5.65	00.07	0.65
18	X		X		5.8	-	T
19	X		X		6.1	-	1.64
20	X		X		6.34	00.54	0.29
21	X		X		6.16	00.55	0.00
22	X		X		5.41	00.55	0.00
23	X		X		-	00.55	0.00
24	X		X		-	00.55	0.00
25	X		X		-	00.55	0.00
26	X		X		-	00.55	0.00
27	X		X		3.52	00.55	0.00
28	X		X		3.44	00.69	0.06
29	X		X		3.38	00.76	0.00
30	X		X		3.38	00.76	0.00
TOTALS							

# CALCASIEU LAKE OYSTER SEASON

DECEMBER 1995

DATE	EASTSIDE		WEST COVE		KINDER GAUGE		LAKE CHARLES
	OPEN	CLOSED	OPEN	CLOSED	RIVER LEVEL	RAIN FALL	RAIN FALL
1	X		X		3.38	00.76	0.00
2	X		X		3.5	-	0.00
3	X		X		3.5	-	0.00
4	X		X		3.34	00.77	T
5	X		X		3.30	00.10	0.00
6	X		X		3.27	00.11	0.10
7	X		X		3.30	-	0.00
8	X		X		3.47	00.55	0.15
9	X		X		4.2	-	0.12
10	X		X		5.0	-	0.00
11	X		X		5.59	01.43	0.00
12	X		X		5.79	01.43	0.00
13	X		X		5.10	01.43	0.00
14	X		X		4.80	01.43	0.00
15	X		X		4.71	01.43	0.00
16	X		X		4.7	-	0.08
17	X		X		4.6	-	2.64
18	X		X		7.75	04.30	2.03
19	X			X	13.24	05.67	0.00
20		X		X	15.55	05.67	0.00
21		X		X	16.27	05.67	T
22		X		X	16.84	05.67	0.03
23		X		X	-	05.67	0.00
24		X		X	-	05.67	0.00
25		X		X	14.6	05.67	0.00
26		X		X	-	05.67	0.00
27		X		X	12.32	05.67	0.00
28		X		X	12.20	05.67	0.00
29		X		X	11.42	05.67	0.00
30	X			X	10.5	-	T
31	X			X	9.4	-	0.06
TOTALS	21	10	18	13		6.43	5.21

# CALCASIEU LAKE OYSTER SEASON

JANUARY 1996

DATE	EASTSIDE		WEST COVE		KINDER GAUGE		LAKE CHARLES
	OPEN	CLOSED	OPEN	CLOSED	RIVER LEVEL	RAIN FALL	RAIN FALL
1	X			X	8.1	-	0.57
2	X			X	10.1	-	0.03
3	X			X	11.72	07.76	0.00
4	X			X	11.33	07.76	0.00
5	X			X	9.14	07.76	0.00
6	X			X	7.9	-	0.78
7	X			X	8.4	-	0.00
8	X			X	10.16	08.09	0.00
9	X			X	10.43	08.09	0.00
10	X			X	10.24	08.09	0.00
11	X			X	9.04	08.09	0.00
12	X			X	8.19	08.09	0.00
13	X			X	-	-	0.00
14	X			X	-	-	0.00
15	X			X	-	-	0.00
16	X			X	7.87	08.09	0.00
17	X			X	7.95	08.10	0.00
18	X			X	-	-	0.22
19	X			X	7.14	08.24	0.23
20	X			X	-	-	0.00
21	X			X	-	-	0.02
22	X			X	5.2	08.53	0.00
23	X		X		4.95	08.53	0.01
24	X		X		4.96	09.02	0.10
25	X		X		5.20	09.02	0.00
26	X		X		5.51	09.27	0.72
27	X			X	11.67	-	0.00
28	X			X	-	-	0.00
29	X			X	15.27	11.30	0.02
30		X		X	13.98	11.31	0.00
31		X		X	11.85	11.37	0.00
TOTALS	29	2	4	27		3.70	2.70

109.5-96 Season

# CALCASIEU LAKE OYSTER SEASON

FEBRUARY 1996

DATE	EASTSIDE		WEST COVE		KINDER GAUGE		LAKE CHARLES
	OPEN	CLOSED	OPEN	CLOSED	RIVER LEVEL	RAIN FALL	RAIN FALL
1		X		X	9.66	11.37	0.24
2	X			X	9.32	12.07	0.25
3	X			X	10.9	-	T
4	X			X	11.62	-	0.00
5	X			X	11.37	12.18	0.00
6	X			X	10.90	12.18	0.00
7	X			X	10.34	00.05	0.00
8	X			X	9.72	00.05	0.00
9	X			X	8.95	00.05	0.00
10	X			X	8.1	-	0.00
11	X			X	7.4	-	0.00
12	X			X	6.67	00.06	0.00
13	X		X		6.16	00.06	0.00
14	X		X		5.75	00.06	0.00
15	X		X		5.39	00.06	0.00
16	X		X		5.08	00.06	0.00
17	X		X		4.9	00.06	0.00
18	X		X		4.63	00.06	0.00
19	X		X		4.43	00.06	T
20	X		X		4.3	00.06	0.00
21	X		X		4.19	00.06	0.00
22	X		X		4.10	00.06	0.00
23	X		X		4.02	00.06	0.00
24	X		X		3.9	00.06	0.00
25	X		X		3.86	00.06	0.00
26	X		X		3.80	00.06	0.00
27	X		X		3.75	00.06	0.00
28	X		X		3.63	00.08	0.55
29	X		X		3.63	00.29	0.51
TOTALS	28	1	17	12		1.10	1.55



# CALCASIEU LAKE OYSTER SEASON

MARCH 1996

DATE	EASTSIDE		WEST COVE		KINDER GAUGE		LAKE CHARLES
	OPEN	CLOSED	OPEN	CLOSED	RIVER LEVEL	RAIN FALL	RAIN FALL
1	X		X		3.60	00.44	0.03
2	X		X		3.4	00.44	0.00
3	X		X		3.4	00.44	0.00
4	X		X		3.46	00.44	0.00
5	X		X		3.34	00.44	0.02
6	X		X		3.29	00.54	0.01
7	X		X		3.37	01.02	0.07
8	X		X		3.48	01.17	0.00
9	X		X		-	01.17	0.00
10	X		X		-	01.17	0.00
11	X		X		3.64	01.17	0.00
12	X		X		3.48	01.17	0.00
13	X		X		3.45	01.17	0.00
14	X		X		3.60	01.17	0.00
15	X		X		3.71	01.17	0.00
16	X		X		3.7	01.17	0.00
17	X		X		3.6	01.17	0.05
18	X		X		3.48	01.17	0.00
19	X		X		3.4	01.17	0.00
20	X		X		3.44	01.17	0.00
21	X		X		4.56	01.17	0.00
22	X		X		4.76	01.17	0.00
23	X		X		4.8	-	0.00
24	X		X		5.0	-	0.01
25	X		X		5.26	01.78	T
26	X		X		5.00	01.80	0.04
27	X		X		4.58	01.80	0.00
28	X		X		4.08	01.80	0.00
29	X		X		3.91	01.80	0.00
30	X		X		4.36	02.40	0.00
31	X		X		4.38	02.40	0.00
TOTALS	31	0	31	0		1.96	0.23

# CALCASIEU LAKE OYSTER SEASON

APRIL 1996

DATE	EASTSIDE		WEST COVE		KINDER GAUGE		LAKE CHARLES
	OPEN	CLOSED	OPEN	CLOSED	RIVER LEVEL	RAIN FALL	RAIN FALL
10		X		X	3.55	00.05	0.00
11	X		X		3.4	00.05	0.00
12	X		X		3.39	00.05	0.00
13	X		X		3.5	-	0.00
14	X		X		5.83	-	0.01
15	X		X		9.88	00.43	0.00
16	X			X	10.57	00.43	0.00
17	X			X	10.80	00.43	0.00
18	X			X	9.88	00.47	0.00
19	X			X	8.08	00.47	0.00
20	X			X	7.5	00.47	0.00
21	X			X	7.7	00.47	0.00
22	X			X	8.09	00.47	0.01
23	X			X	8.64	01.56	0.00
24	X			X	8.91	01.56	0.00
25	X			X	9.31	01.56	0.00
26	X			X	9.5	-	0.00
27	X			X	8.6	-	0.00
28	X			X	7.4	-	0.00
29	X			X	7.00	01.98	0.25
30	X			X	7.00	02.02	0.00
5-1		X		X	7.19	02.02	0.00
TOTALS	20	0	5	15		1.97	0.27

THIS IS A SECOND EXTENTION OF THE OYSTER SEASON; APRIL 11 - 30.

# **OYSTER STATUS IN CALCASIEU LAKE**

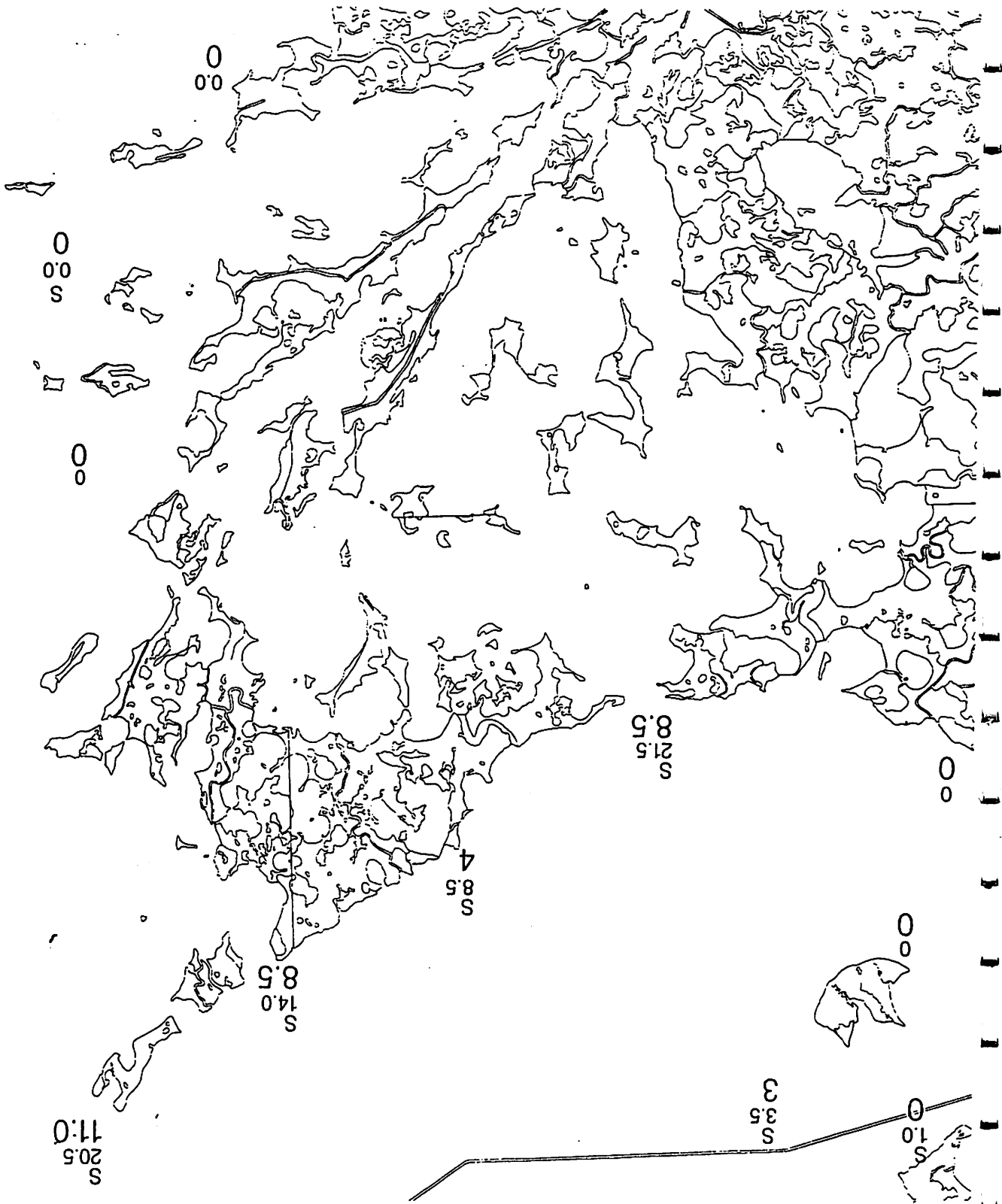
SEASONS	STOCK ASSESSMENT		ESTIMATED SACKS HARVESTED
	MARKETABLE	TOTAL	
1963	-	-	210,160
1967-74	-	-	NO COMMERCIAL LANDINGS
1975-76	142,726	441,183	40,000
1976-77	694,420	869,475	100,000
1977-78	483,673	621,885	141,976
1978-79	-	-	75,000
1979-80	676,333	979,613	125,000
1980-81	355,664	705,117	150,000
1981-82	608,110	988,575	-
1982-83	-	-	50,000-75,000
1983-84	-	-	150,000
1984-85	125,407	644,788	-
1985-86	315,160	537,760	27,400
1986-87	589,940	1,217,959	200,000
1987-88	796,950	2,703,647	125,000
1988-89	463,331	1,036,580	50,000
1989-90	172,046	640,892	40,000
1990-91	408,961	1,268,962	50,000
1991-92	1,048,882	1,731,367	31,383
1992-93	749,915	1,612,736	27,328
1993-94	748,281	1,238,783	12,818
1994-95	756,525	1,246,480	6,134
1995-96	956,926	1,298,379	29,082
1996-97			
1997-98			
1998-99			
1999-2000			

**1996/97 M<sup>2</sup> SAMPLES**  
**AND**  
**STOCK ASSESSMENT**

**COASTAL STUDY AREA I**  
**JOHN BURDON**



AREA I  
M<sup>2</sup> 1996  
S = SPAT  
SEED  
SACK  
M = MUSSELS

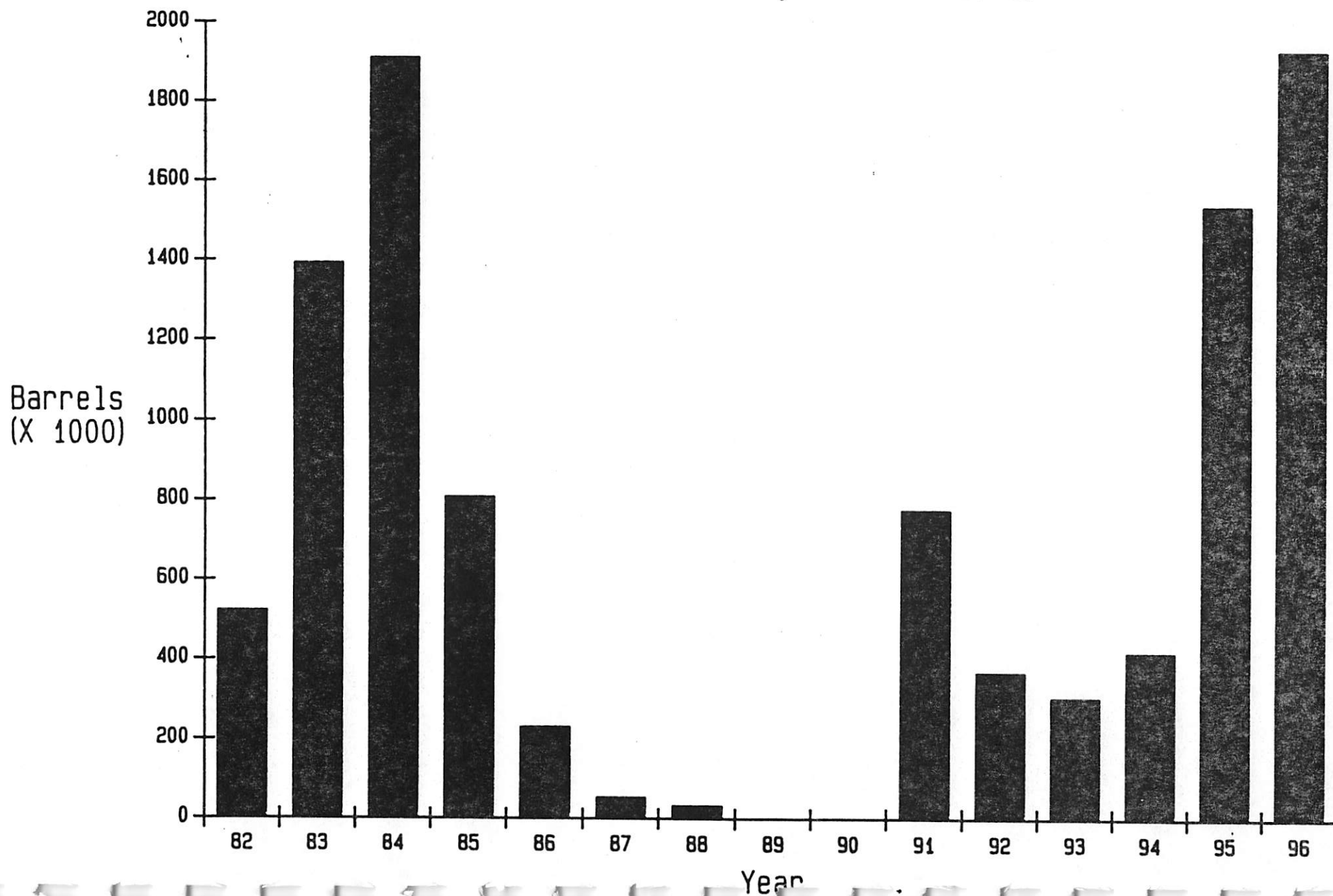


1996 COASTAL STUDY AREA I OYSTER AVAILABILITY

Meter <sup>2</sup> Station	Reef Acreage	#Meter <sup>2</sup>	#Seed Oyster	#Sack Oyster	BBLs Seed	BBLs Sack
001	376.07	1,521,955.29	0	0	0	0
002			1	0		
003			3.5	3		
004			0	0		
002-004	6850.17	27,722,638.00	4.5	3	172,989	231,022
005	3058.65	12,378,356.55	21.5	8.5	350,177	292,267
006			14	8.5		
007			20.5	11		
008			N/A	N/A		
011			8.5	4		
006-011	1801.76	7,291,722.72	43	23.5	412,558	475,987
009			0	0	0	0
010			0	0	0	0
009-010	4155.70	16,818,117.90	0	0	0	0
Lake Pont.	Seabrook 631.27	2,554,749.69	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
EL01	2691.84	10,893,876.48	0	0	0	0
					935,724	999,276

Bob1/oysavail.96

Oysters Available on the Public Grounds  
in Coastal Study Area I  
(Seed and Sack Oysters Combined)





**COASTAL STUDY AREA II**  
**ROBERT L. ANCELET**

S  
83  
39

S  
30  
15

S  
50  
36

S  
31  
21

S  
76  
28

S  
55  
8

S  
34  
13

S  
19  
12

S  
50  
16  
M

22  
6

4  
0

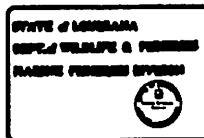
18  
23

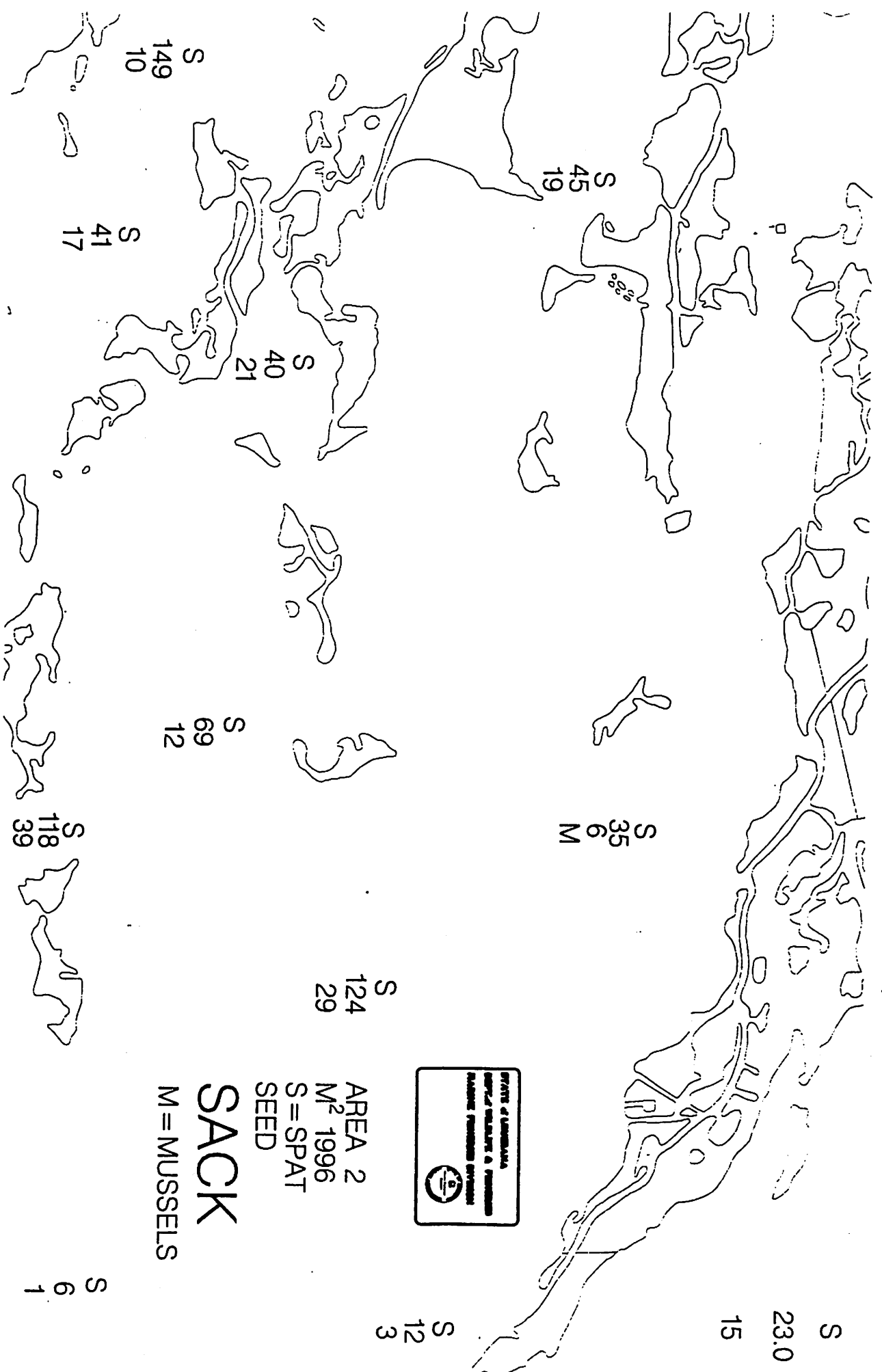
2  
2

AREA 2  
M<sup>2</sup> 1996  
S = SPAT  
SEED

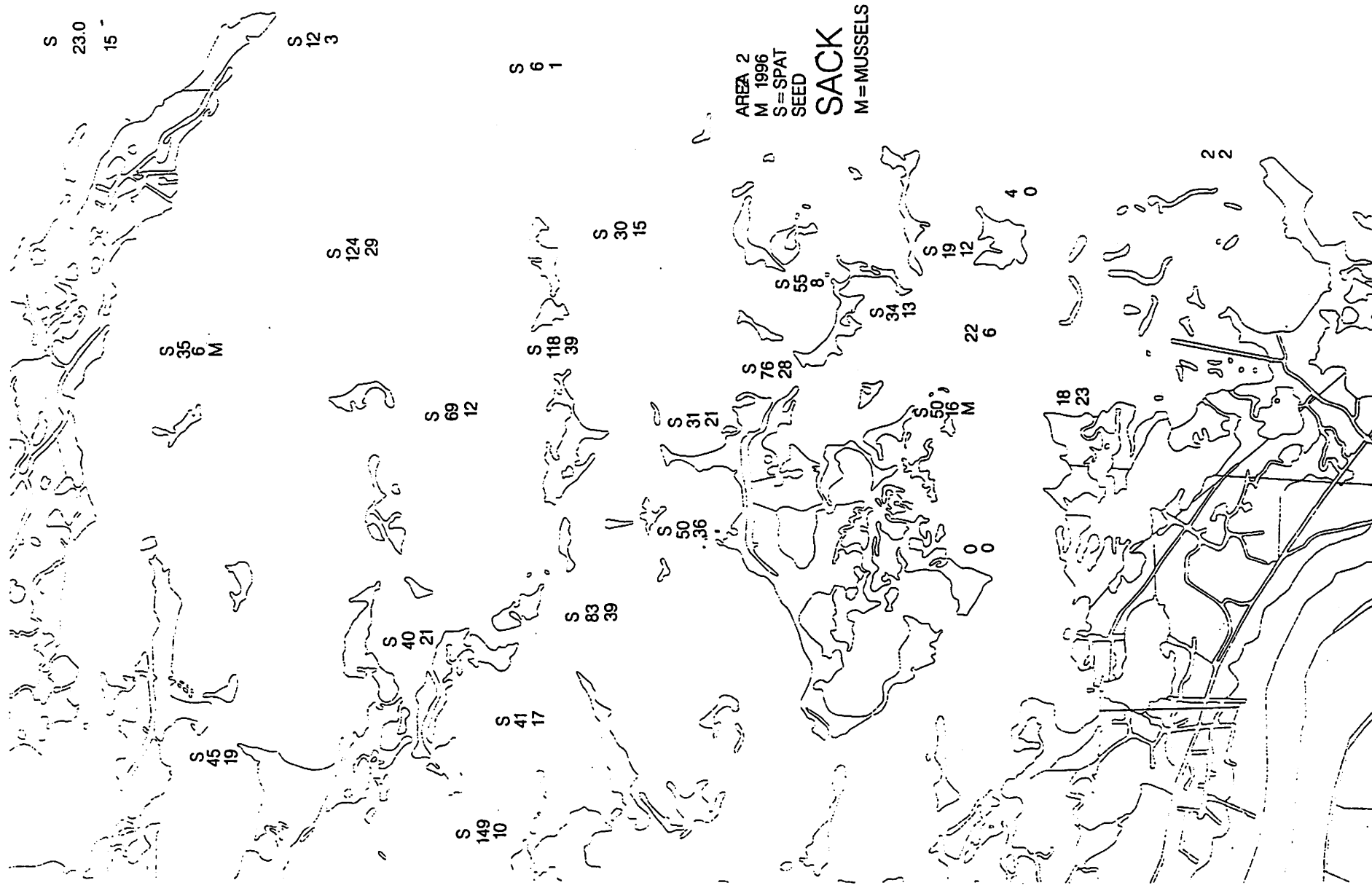
**SACK**

M = MUSSELS





AREA 2  
M<sup>2</sup> 1996  
S = SPAT  
SEED  
**SACK**  
M = MUSSELS



COASTAL STUDY AREA II  
1996

Meter <sup>2</sup> Station	Grids	Acres	Meter <sup>2</sup>	# Seed Oys	# Sack Oys	BBLS Seed	BBLS Sack
1	1,2,3,4,8,9, 10	506	2,047,782	35.33	5.67	100,484	32,253
2	7,6,5,11, 12	59	283,773	45	19.33	17,736	15,237
3	13,14,15	896	3,626,112	2.67	2.67	13,447	26,894
5	17,18,25,24	118	477,546	40.33	21.33	26,749	28,295
6	20,21,16	716	2,897,652	124	28.67	499,040	230,779
7	19,26,27	301	1,218,147	69	12.33	150,577	41,722
8	31,36,32	501	2,027,547	83.33	39.33	234,660	221,510
9	33,34,35	461	1,865,667	118.33	39.33	234,660	221,510
10	40,44	145	586,815	30	15	24,451	24,451
11	42,43,46	339	1,371,933	76.33	27.67	145,444	105,448
12	47	425	437,076	54.67	8.33	33,187	10,113
13	50,51	109	441,123	34.33	12.67	21,033	15,525
14	48,49	7	28,329	49.67	15.67	1,954	1,233
16	62,63,64	174	704,178	18	22.67	17,604	44,344
17	52,53,54,55, 59,60	659	2,666,973	0	0	0	0
19	65,66,67,68	937	781,071	1.33	1.33	1,443	2,886
20	56,58	293	1,185,771	22.33	6.33	36,775	20,850
21	37,38,41	659	2,666,973	50.33	36.33	186,429	269,142
22	39	122	493,734	31.33	21	21,484	28,801
23	30,23	28	113,316	41	16.67	6,453	5,247
24	22,29	69	279,243	149	9.67	57,788	7,501
4	Horseshoe	315	1,274,805	12.33	3	21,831	10,623
15	Outside	127	513,969	19	12	13,563	17,132
18	Outside	782	3,164,754	3.67	.33	16,131	2,901
26	SAME AS #4						
25	Battledore	1,419	5,742,693	0	0	0	0
27	L. Fortuna	4,288	17,353,536	22.67	15	546,395	723,063
28	Wreck	2,276	9,210,972	5.67	1	72,536	25,586
					Total	2,539,973	2,056,498

**1996 OYSTER AVAILABILITY  
1994 COASTAL STUDY AREA II SHELLPLANTS**

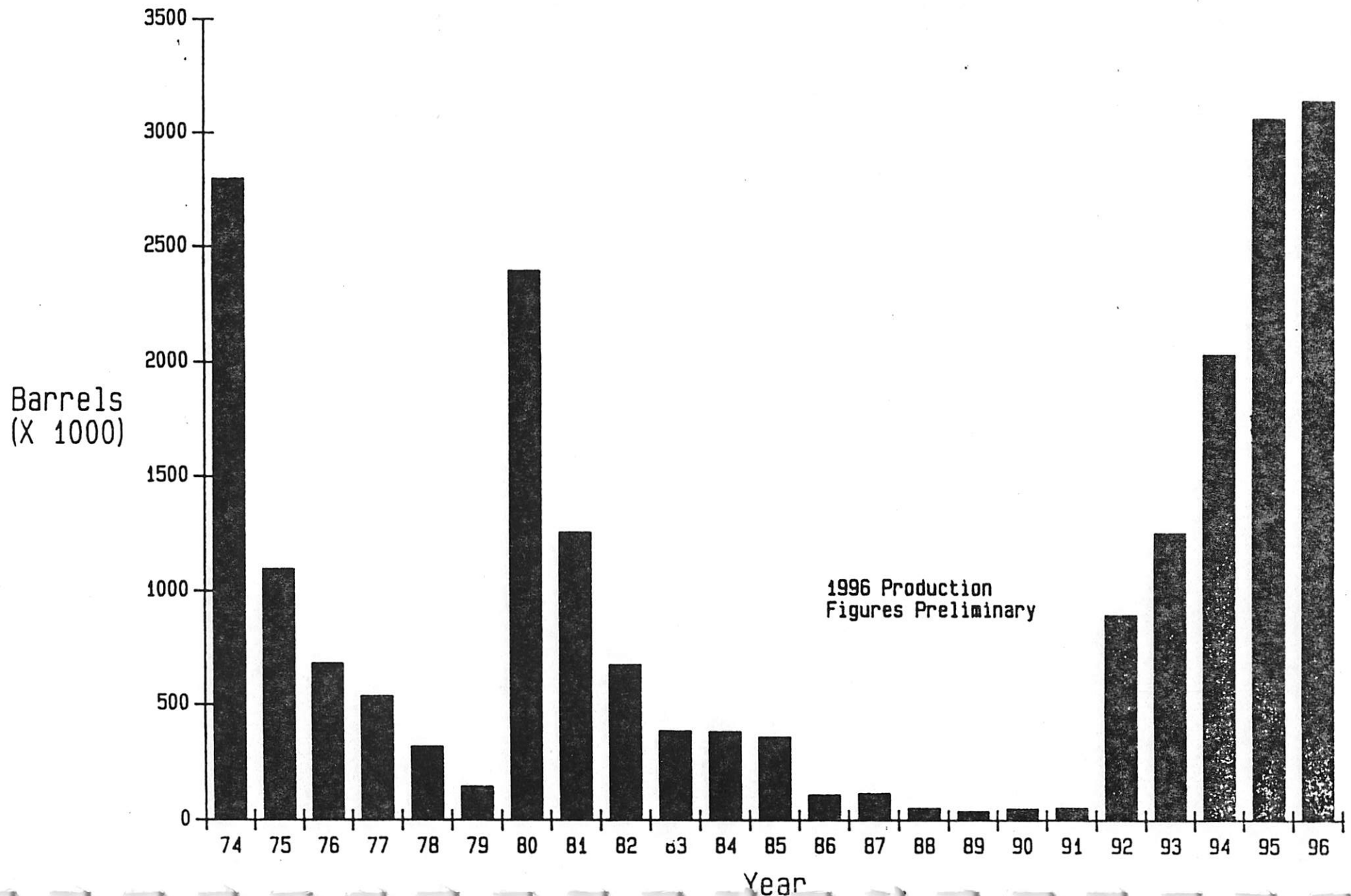
**Seed Oysters**

<b>Shellplant</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>#Oysters</b>	<b>Barrels Seed</b>
<b>Lonesome Is.</b>	708	124	493,464
<b>Bay Crab</b>	137	83.33	64,169

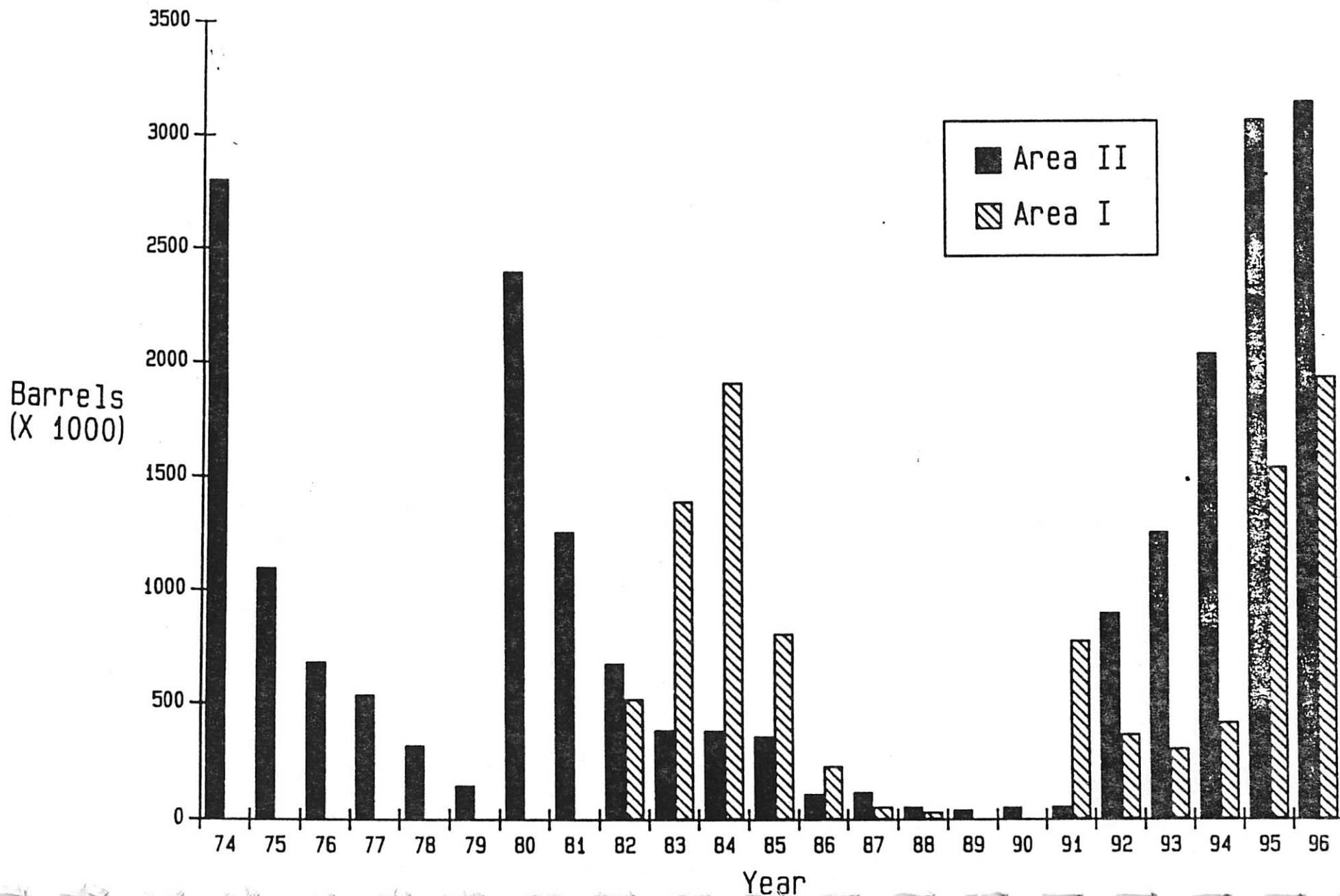
**Sack Oysters**

<b>Shellplant</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>#Oysters</b>	<b>Barrels Sack</b>
<b>Lonesome Is.</b>	708	28.67	228,187
<b>Bay Crab</b>	137	39.33	60,572

Oysters Available on the Public Grounds  
in Coastal Study Area II  
(Seed and Sack Oysters Combined)



Oysters Available on the Public Grounds  
East of the Mississippi River  
(Seed and Sack Oysters Combined)



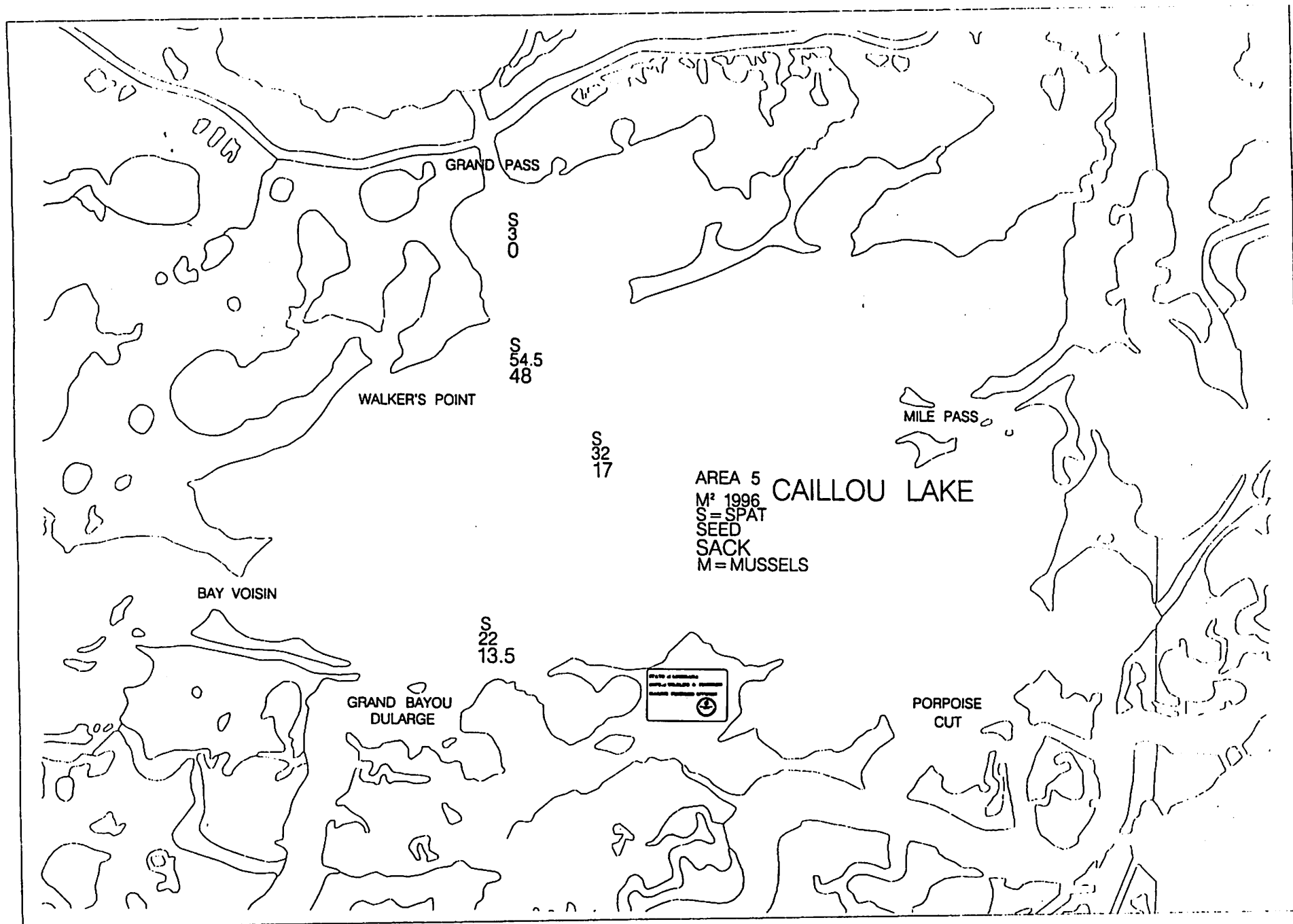


**COASTAL STUDY AREA III**  
**MARK SCHEXNAYDER**

Hackberry Meter Squared  
June 12, 1996

[illegible]

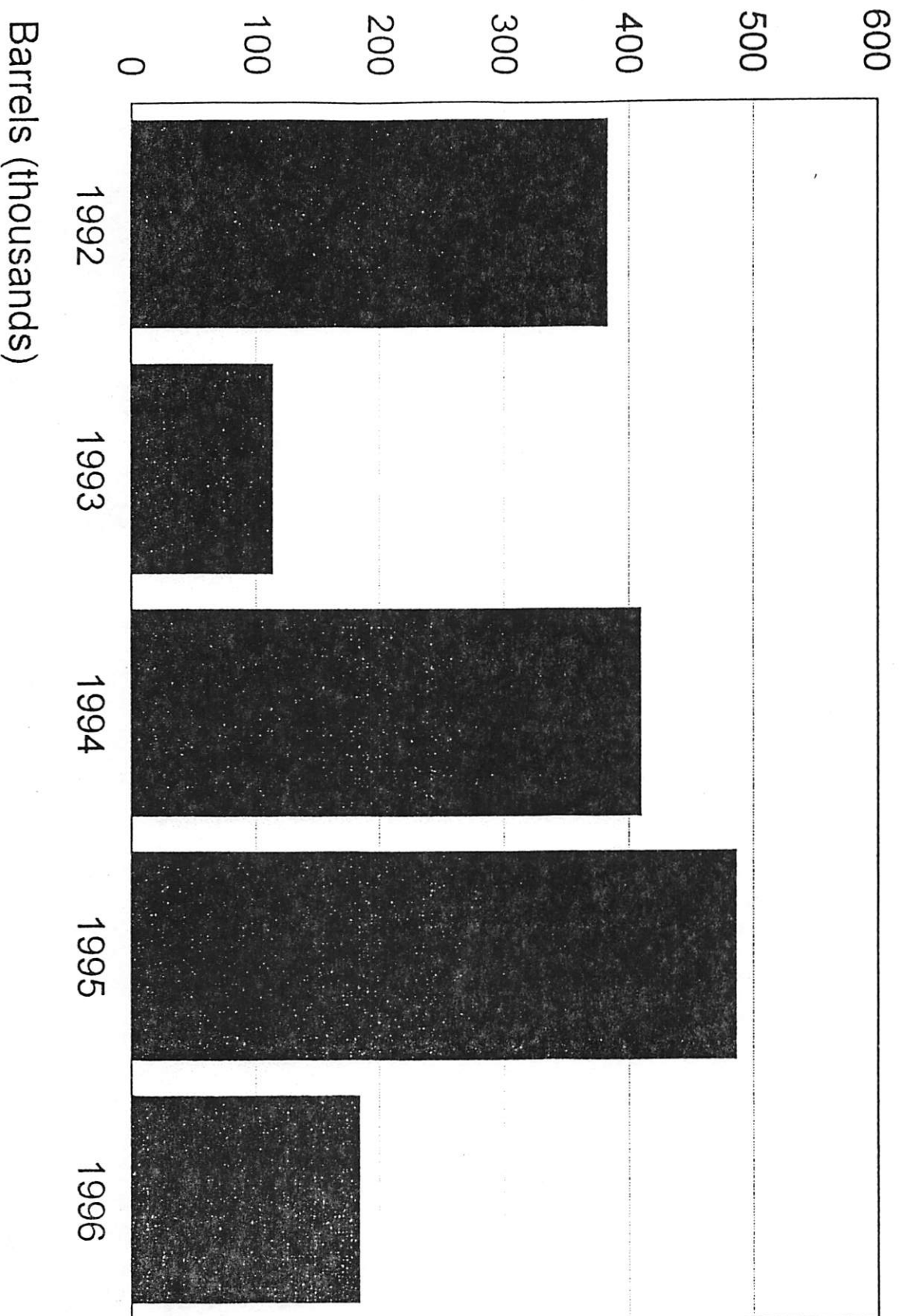
**COASTAL STUDY AREA V**  
**GERALD ADKINS**  
**PAUL MEIER**

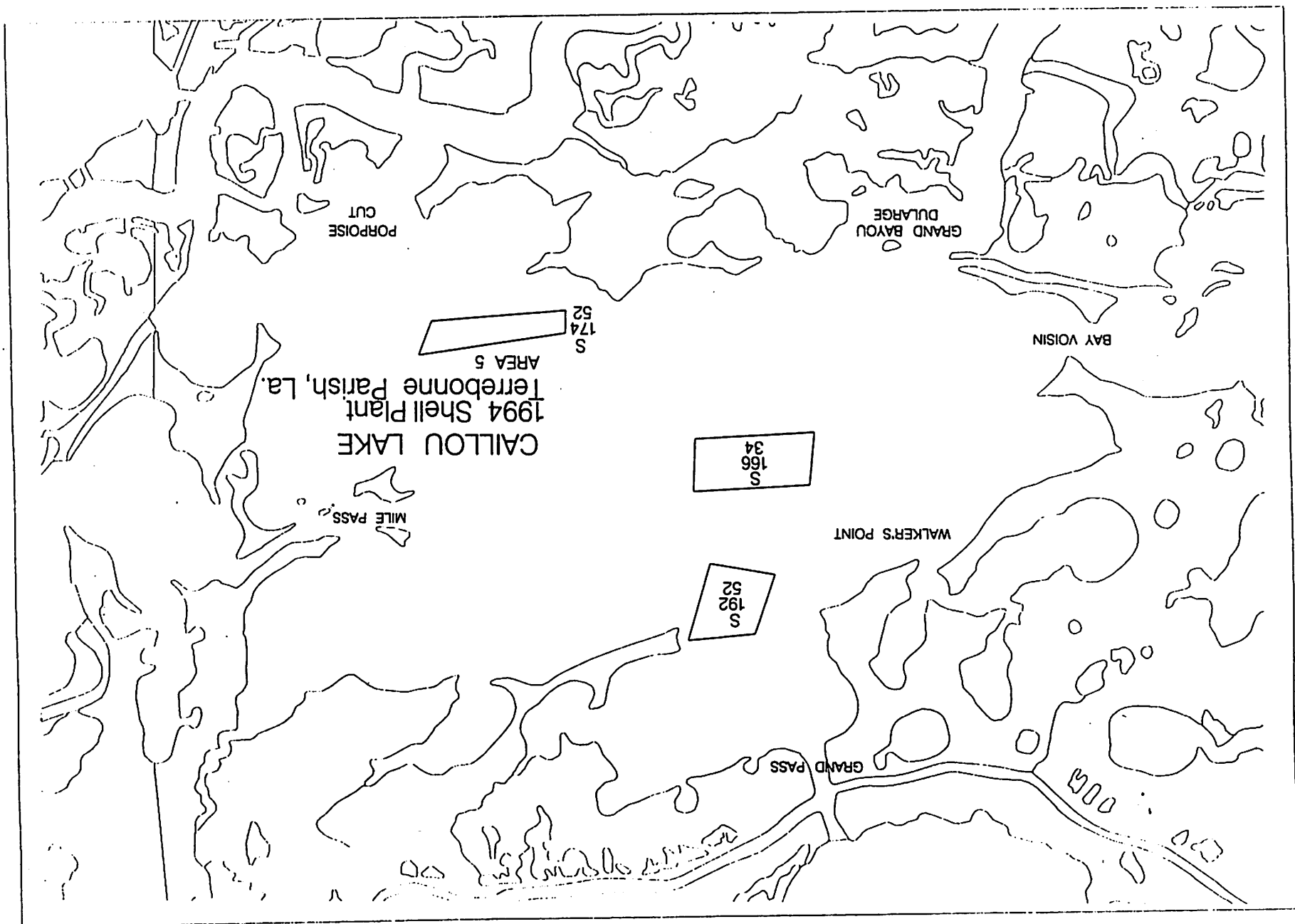


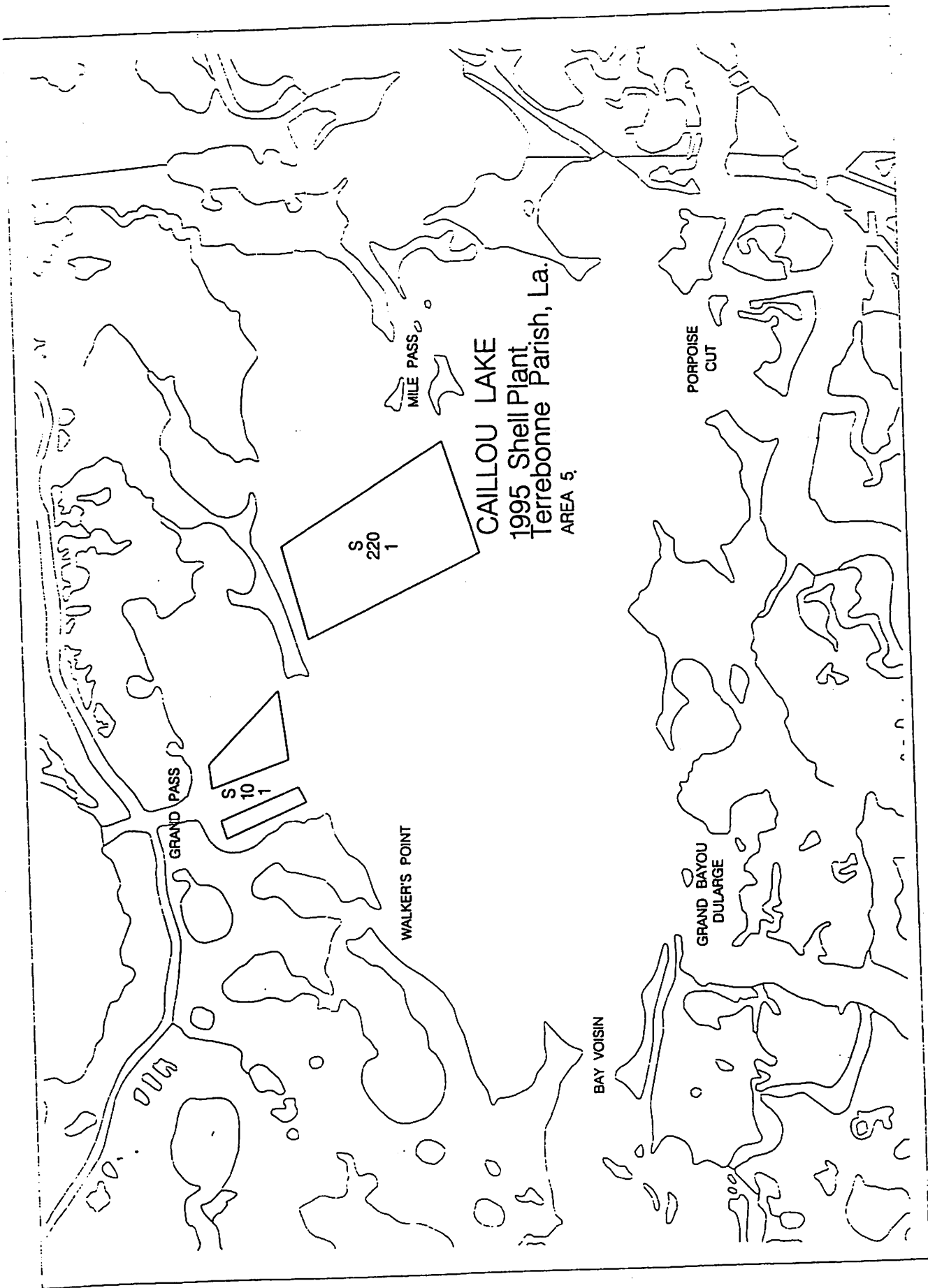
# OYSTER AVAILABILITY

(without shell plants)

## SISTER LAKE







## 1996 SISTER LAKE OYSTER AVAILABILITY

METER <sup>2</sup> STATION	REEF ACREAGE	# METER <sup>2</sup>	# SEED OYS.	# SACK OYS.	BBLS SEED	BBLS SACK
200	221.58	896,734.26	3	0	3,736	0
202	81.93	331,570.71	54.5	48	25,098	44,209
207	185.72	751,608.84	32	17	33,405	35,493
203	151.31	612,352	22	13.5	18,711	22,963
TOTALS					80,950	102,665

Bob#1/sslak96.raw



**1996 OYSTER AVAILABILITY  
1994 COASTAL STUDY AREA V SHELLPLANTS**

**Seed Oysters**

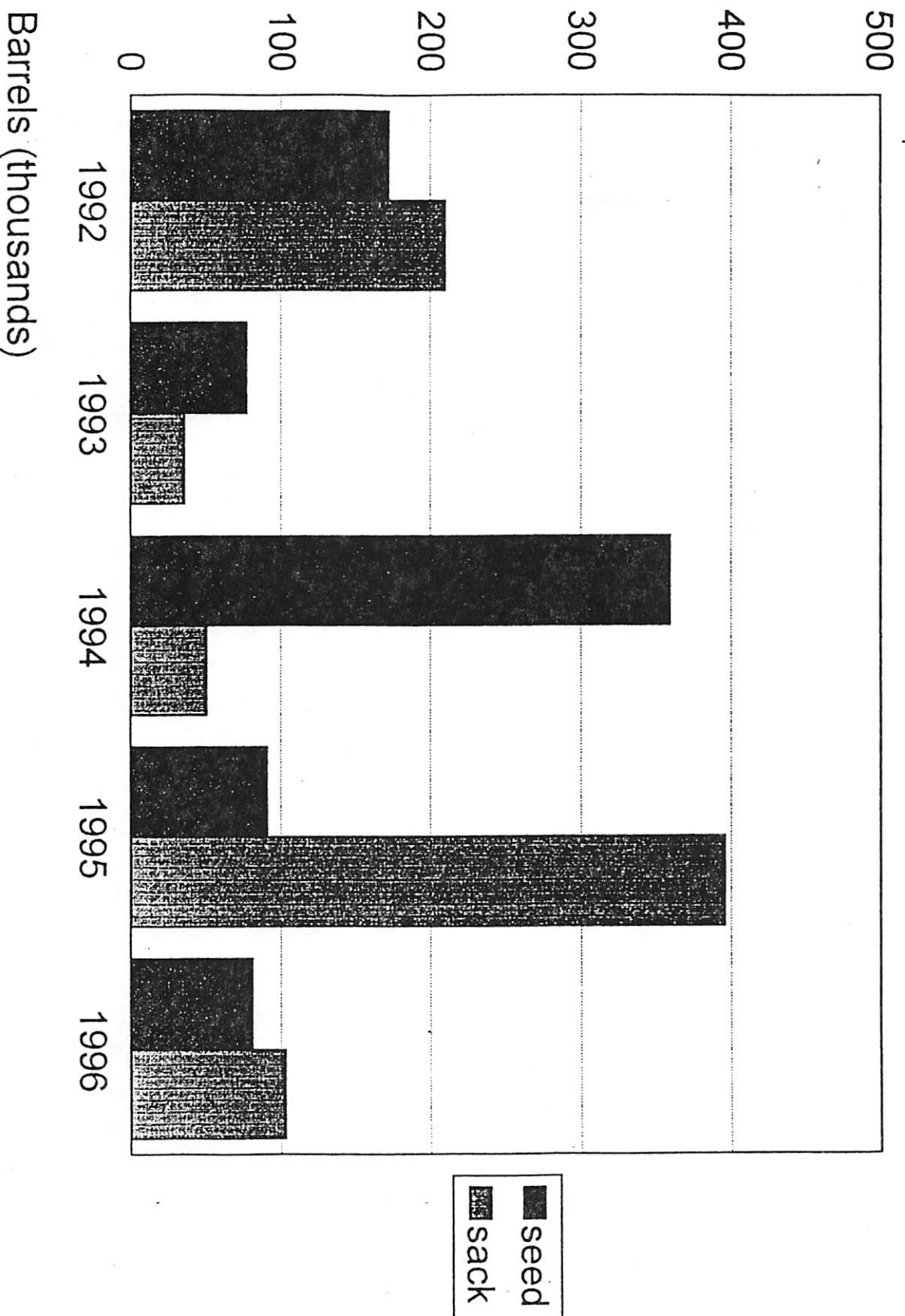
<b>Shellplant</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b># Oysters</b>	<b>Barrels Seed</b>
<b>North</b>	96	192	103,603
<b>Mid</b>	129	166.5	120,727
<b>South</b>	81	174	79,220

**Sack Oysters**

<b>Shellplant</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b># Oysters</b>	<b>Barrels Sack</b>
<b>North</b>	96	52	56,118
<b>Mid</b>	129	34.5	50,031
<b>South</b>	81	52	47,350

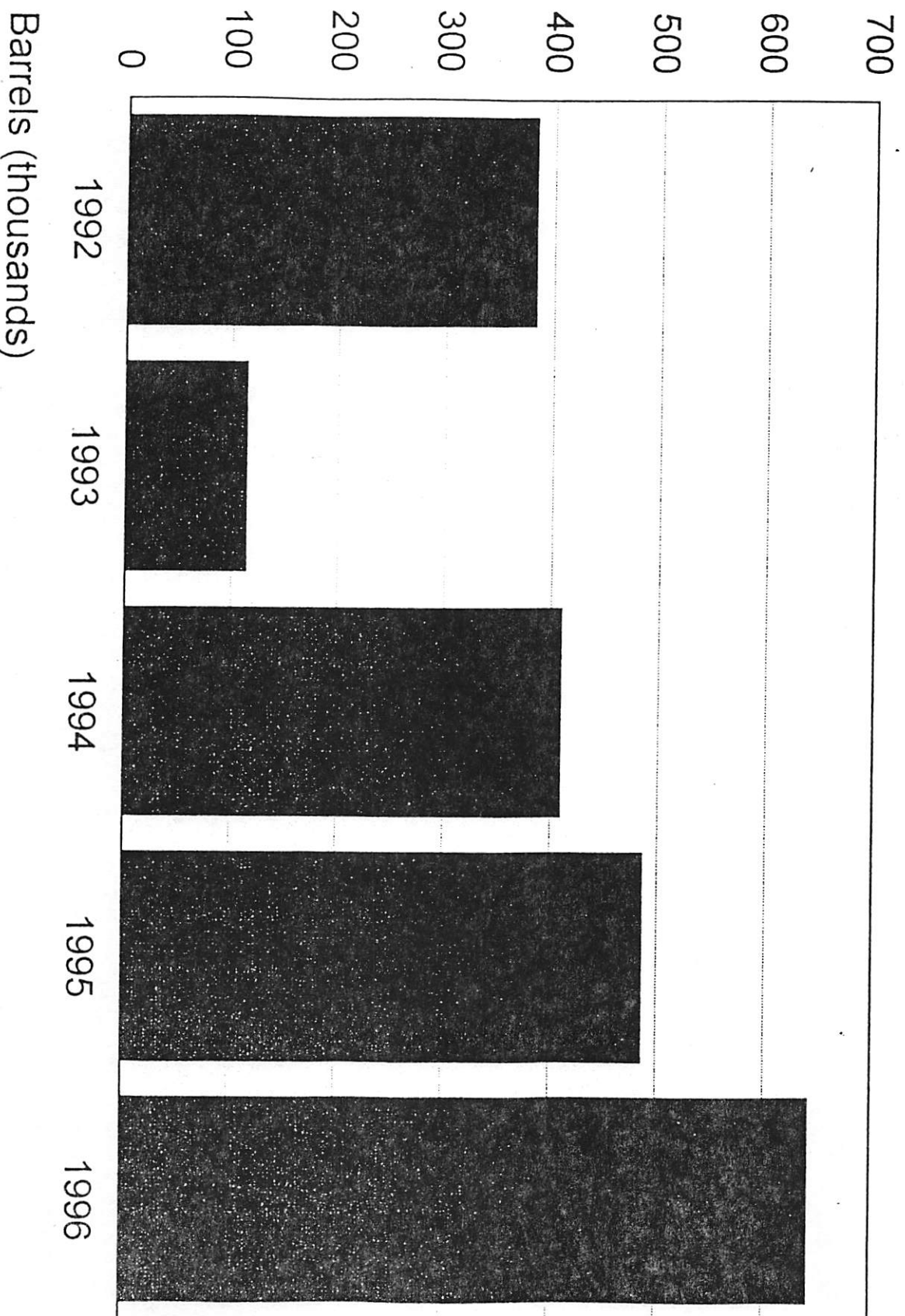
# OYSTER AVAILABILITY

## SISTER LAKE



# OYSTER AVAILABILITY

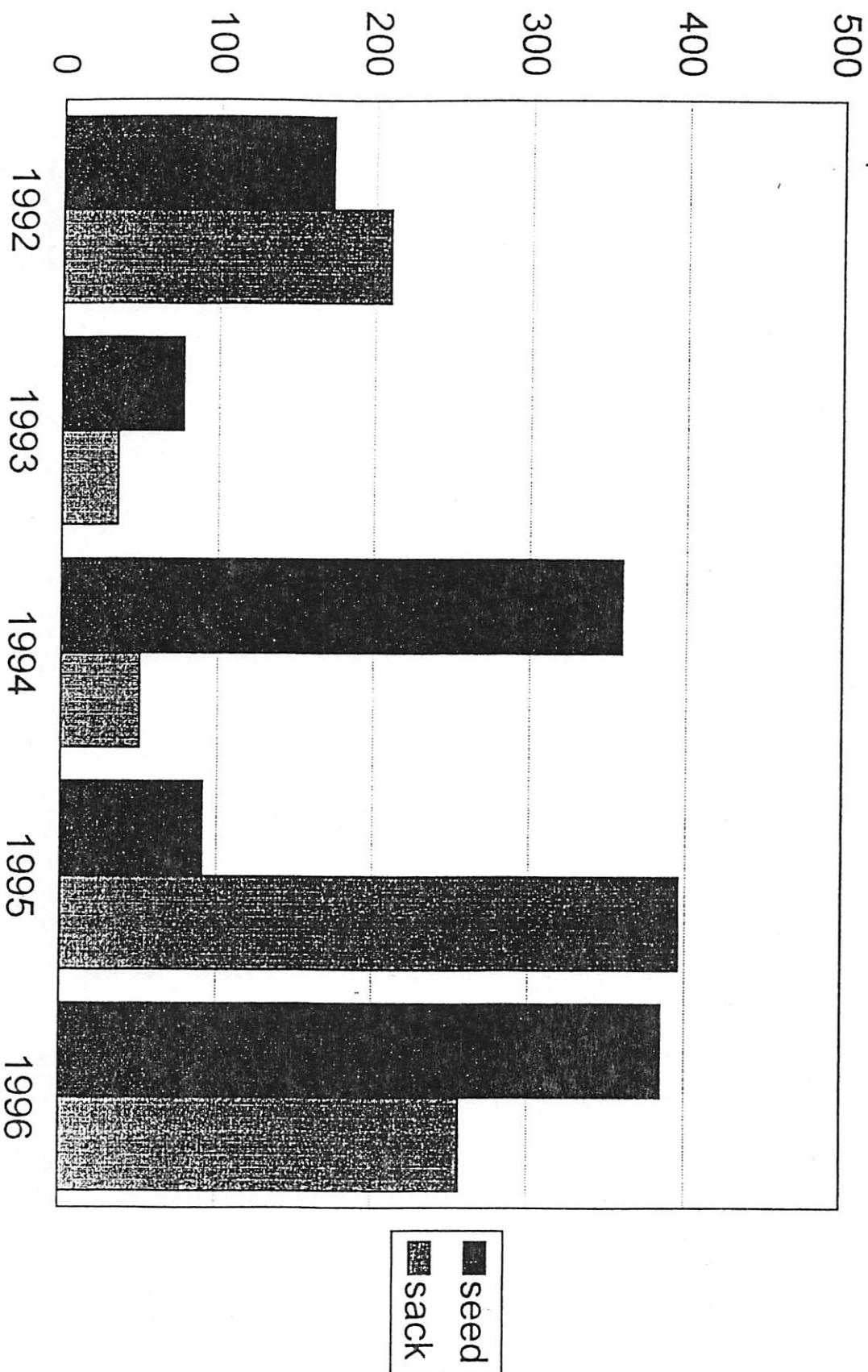
## SISTER LAKE

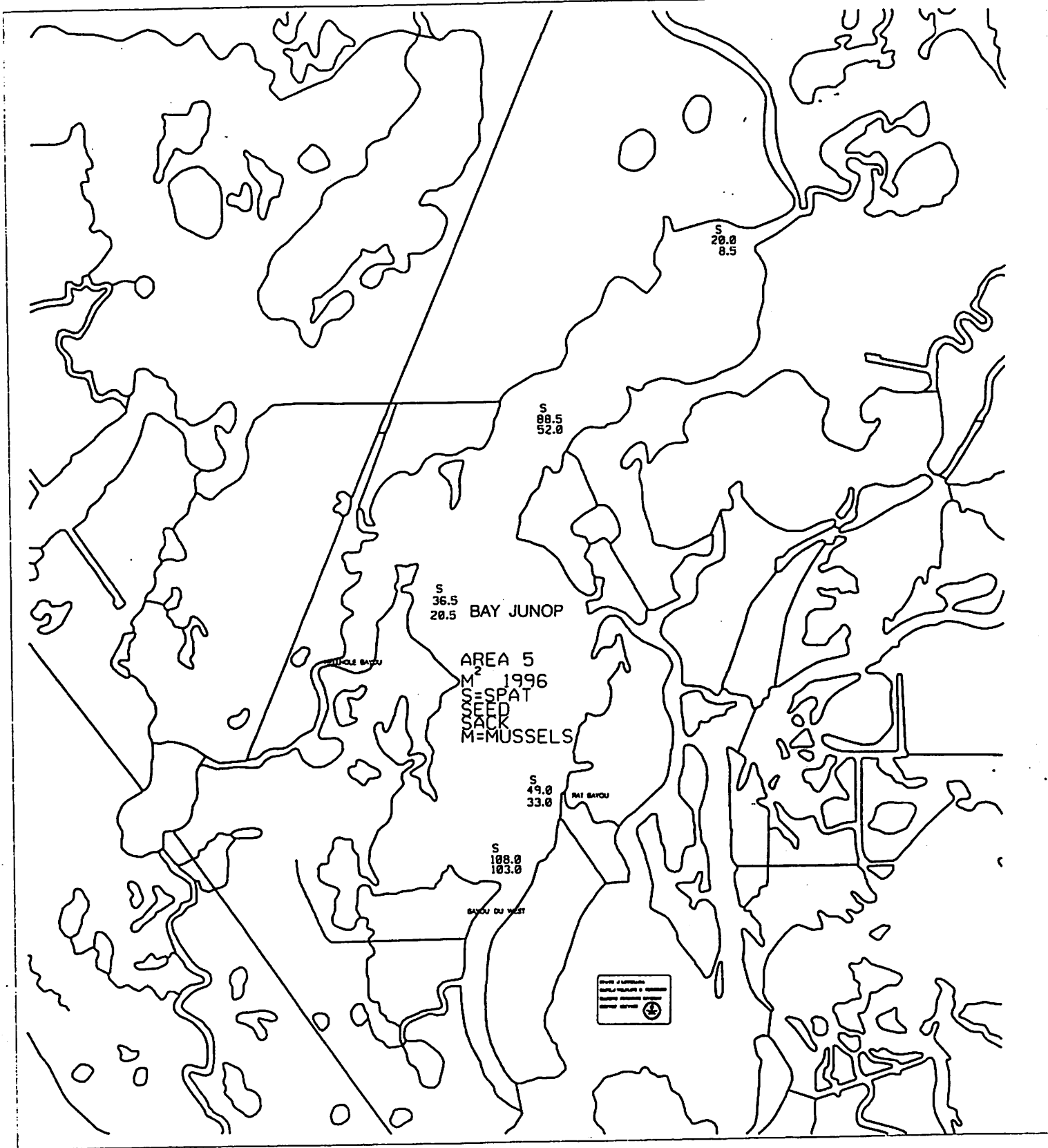


# OYSTER AVAILABILITY

Barrels (thousands)

## SISTER LAKE





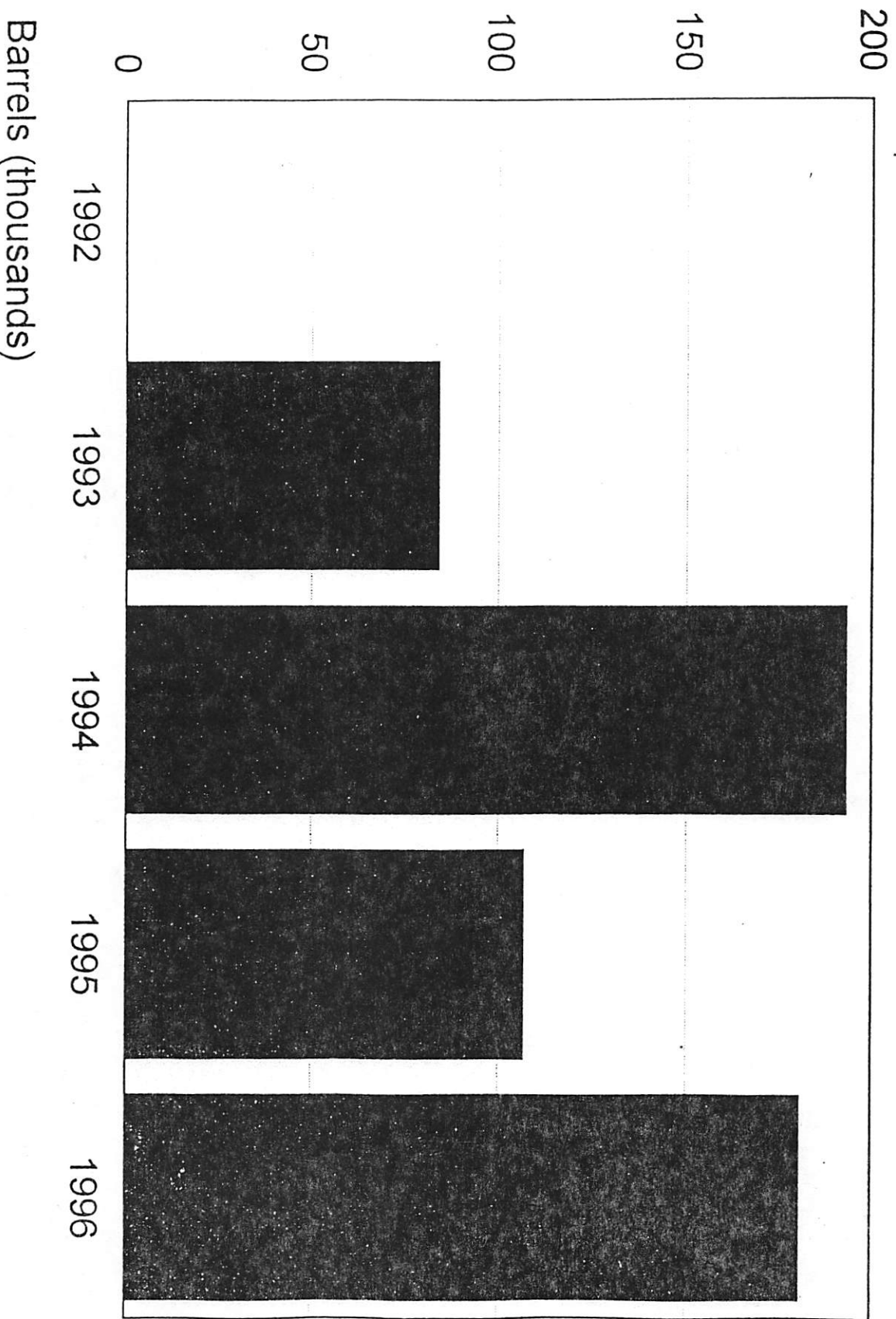
## 1996 BAY JUNOP OYSTER AVAILABILITY

METER <sup>2</sup> STATION	REEF ACREAGE	# METER <sup>2</sup>	# SEED OYS.	# SACK OYS.	BBLS SEED	BBLS SACK
251	17.2	69,284.64	20	8.5	1,924	1,636
253	73.26	296,483.22	88.5	52	11,859	42,825
254	94.20	381,227.40	36.5	20.5	19,326	21,709
252	67.36	272,605.92	78.5	68	29,722	51,492
255						
TOTALS					62,831	117,662

Bob#1/Bayjnp96.raw

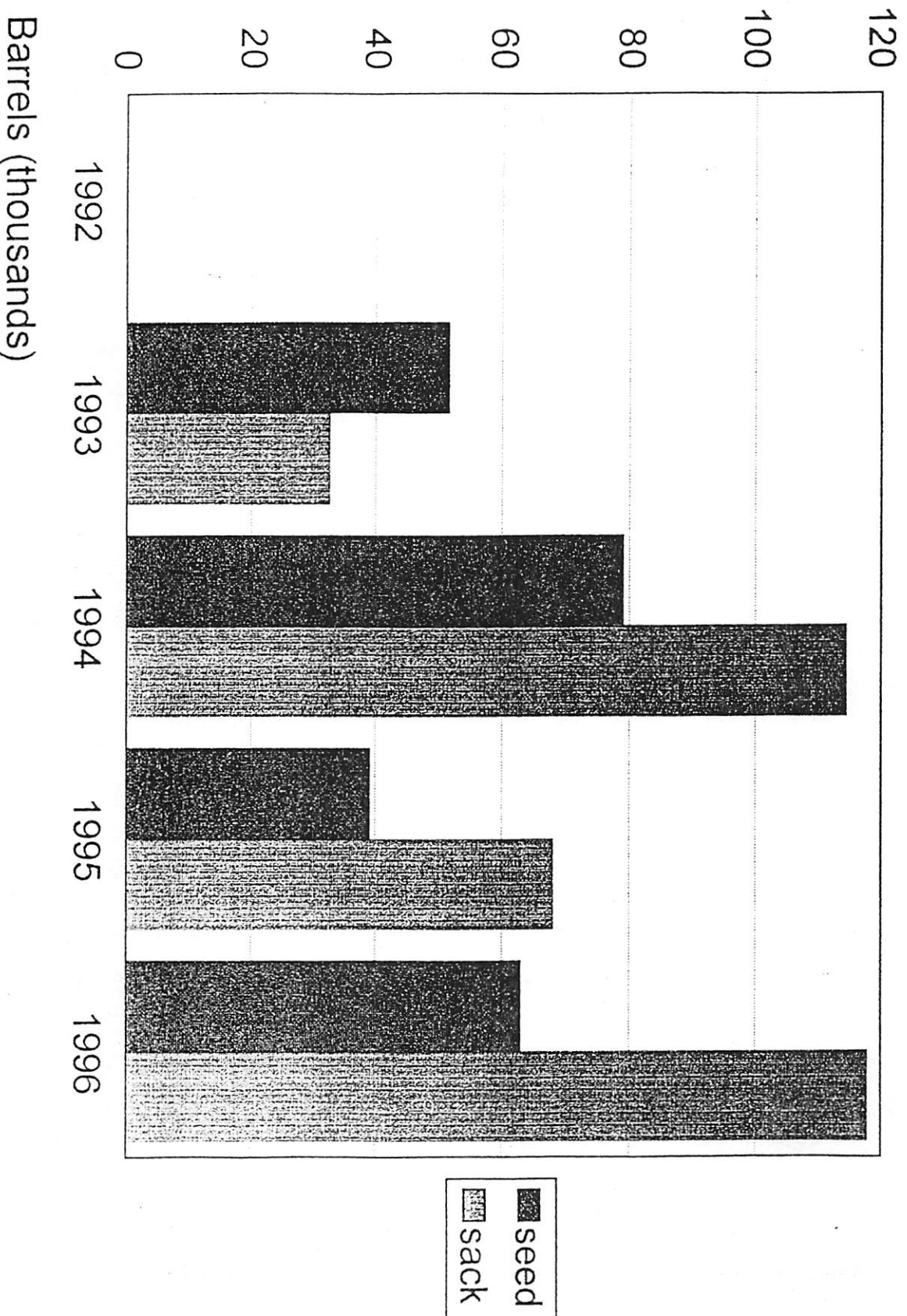
# OYSTER AVAILABILITY

## Bay Junop



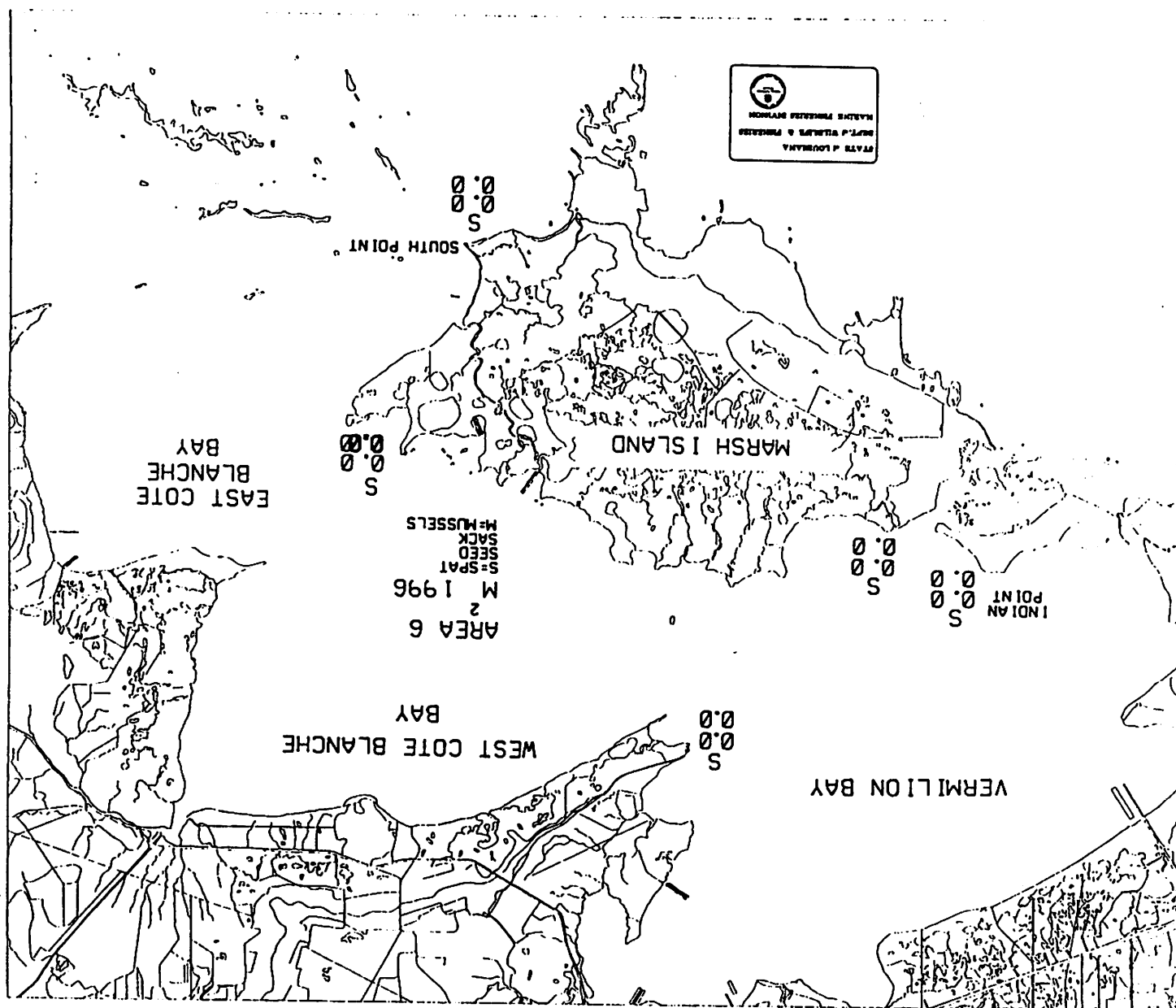
# OYSTER AVAILABILITY

## Bay Junop





**COASTAL STUDY AREA VI**  
**PETE JUNEAU**



**COASTAL STUDY AREA VII**  
**DUDLEY CARVER**

# OYSTER PRODUCTION IN CALCASIEU LAKE AUGUST 1996

## OYSTER NUMBERS

WESTSIDE					EASTSIDE				
SIZE	STATION			AVE.	SIZE	STATION			AVE.
	4	5	6			1	2	3	
> 3"	21	20	31	12.0	> 3"	30	52	35	19.5
1-3"	45	34	57	22.7	1-3"	29	55	71	25.8

## OYSTER PRODUCTION AREA

WESTSIDE	EASTSIDE
2,942,076.67 SQ. METERS	3,901,185.57 SQ. METERS

## PRODUCTION OF > 3" OYSTERS

WESTSIDE		EASTSIDE	
OYSTERS:	35,304,920.040	OYSTERS:	76,073,118.615
SACKS:	196,138.5	SACKS:	422,628.4
TOTAL SACKS OF > 3" OYSTERS:		618,766.9	

## PRODUCTION OF 1-3" OYSTERS

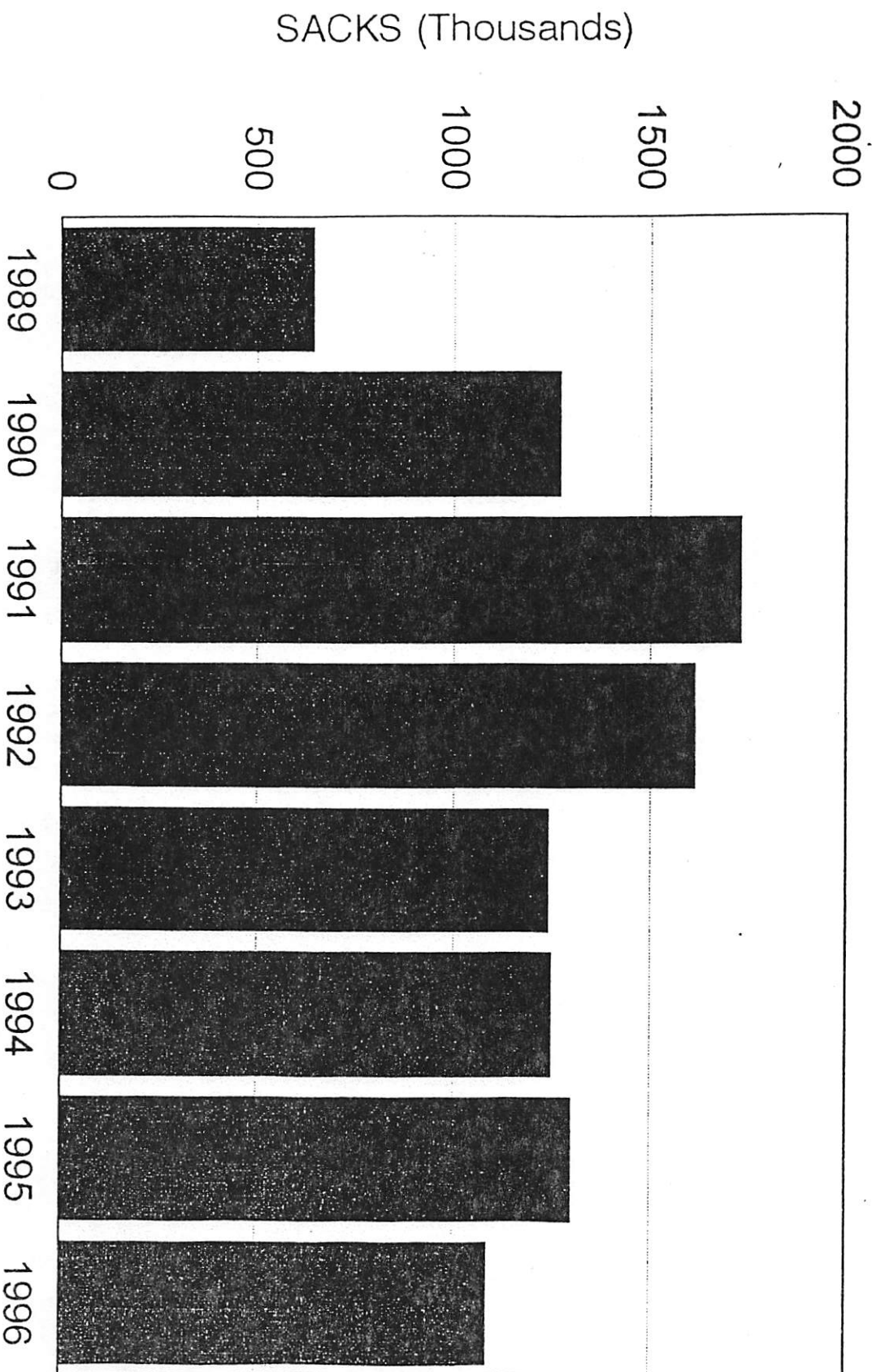
WESTSIDE		EASTSIDE	
OYSTERS:	66,785,140.409	OYSTERS:	100,650,587.706
SACKS:	185,514.3	SACKS:	279,585.0
TOTAL SACKS OF 1-3" OYSTERS:		465,099.3	

## TOTAL PRODUCTION

TOTAL OVERALL POTENTIAL OF OYSTERS (SACKS):	1,083,866.2
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# OYSTER AVAILABILITY

## CALCASIEU LAKE



**COMMISSION ACTION & ORDERS**

RESOLUTION

1995/96 Season on the Public Oyster Grounds  
Adopted by the  
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission  
August 3, 1995  
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:433 provides that the Public Oyster Seed Grounds may be opened on the Wednesday following Labor Day which in 1995 is September 6, and

WHEREAS, the oyster resources on the "Public Oyster Seed Grounds and Oyster Seed Reservation" have been surveyed and the available supply and size variation has been determined, and

WHEREAS, it has been a managerial practice to rotate the opening of the season on some of the "Oyster Seed Reservations" when biologically feasible, and

WHEREAS, several sites have been utilized to deposit cultch material as a subsurface to attract oyster larvae and the areas are normally closed to dredging one year, and

WHEREAS, Act #46 of the 1992 Legislative Session changed R.S. 56:433B to mandate a sacking area only on the Public Grounds east of the Mississippi River inclusive of Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the "Louisiana Public Oyster Seed Grounds", and the Sister Lake, Hackberry Bay and Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservations" not currently under lease will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 6, 1995, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the "Bay Junope Oyster Seed Reservations" will remain closed during the 1995/96 oyster season, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the sacking only area of the public grounds is generally Lake Fortuna and Lake Machias to a line from Mozambique Pt. to Pt. Gardner to Grace Pt. at the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that those properly marked areas where shell was deposited for oyster cultch in the Sister Lake Oyster Seed Reservations will be closed to oyster dredging for the 1995/96 oyster season, and

## DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

### Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953 (B) and 967, and under the authority of R.S. 56:433 and R.S. 56:435.1 notice is hereby given that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby declares:

1. The Public Oyster Seed Grounds not currently under lease, and Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservations will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 6, 1995.

2. The Bay Junope Oyster Seed Reservations will remain closed during the 1995-96 oyster season.

3. A designated sacking only area east of the Mississippi River will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 6, 1995. The sacking only area of the public grounds is generally Lake Fortuna and Lake Machias to a line from Mozambique Pt. to Pt. Gardner to Grace Pt. at the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet.

4. Those properly marked areas where shell was deposited for oyster cultch in Plaquemines Parish will be closed to oyster dredging for the 1995/96 oyster season.

5. The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take emergency action if necessary, to close areas if oyster mortalities are occurring or to delay the season or close areas where significant spat catch has occurred with good probability of survival, or where it is found that there are excessive amounts of shell in seed oyster loads.

6. The Secretary is authorized to take emergency action to reopen areas previously closed if the threat to the resource subsides.

7. The Calcasieu and Sabine Lake tonging areas will open one-half hour before sunrise on November 1, 1995 and remain open until one-half hour after sunset on March 1, 1996 with the Secretary having the authority to extend to compensate for the health closure days.

8. Notice of any opening, delaying or closing of a season will be made by public notice at least 72 hours prior to such action.

Perry Gisclair  
Chairman



**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take emergency action if necessary, to close areas if oyster mortalities are occurring or to delay the season or close areas where significant spat catch has occurred with good probability of survival, or where it is found that there are excessive amounts of shell in seed oyster loads, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Secretary will also have the authority to take emergency action to reopen areas previously closed if the threat to the resource has ended, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the season for Calcasieu and Sabine Lake tonging areas will open one-half hour before sunrise on November 1, 1995 and remain open until one-half hour after sunset on March 1, 1996 with the Secretary having the authority to extend to compensate for the health closure days, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** notice of any opening, delaying or closing of a season will be made by public notice at least 72 hours prior to such action.

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Perry Gisclair  
Chairman, La. Wildlife and  
Fisheries Commission

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Joe L. Herring  
Secretary, La. Department of  
Wildlife and Fisheries

Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service do not act to change the size limit for red snapper taken commercially in Federal water.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that concurrently with the promulgation of a Declaration of Emergency, that the Secretary shall promulgate a Notice of Intent to establish permanent rules concerning the size limit for red snapper taken commercially in Louisiana waters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Declaration of Emergency, Notice of Intent and the Final Rule, including, but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact Statement, the filing of the Notice of Intent and Final Rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

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Glynn Carver, Chairman  
La. Wildlife & Fisheries  
Commission

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James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary  
La. Department of Wildlife &  
Fisheries

Extension of Oyster Season in Calcasieu Lake was also presented by Mr. Corky Perret. The Calcasieu Lake oyster fishery was a relatively small fishery with two areas being productive. This season is tonging only with a limited number of sacks allowed per day to be taken. This season was to close at the end of February, but Mr. Perret asked for an extension of one month due to Health Department closures. The closures were because of water quality and lasted in one part of the lake for 51 days and the other part for 13 days. A letter to the Commission from Representative Dan Flavin also requested the extension of the season. Mr. Perret read the Resolution for the record. Commissioner Hanchey made a motion to accept the Resolution. Commissioner Cormier seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution and Declaration of Emergency is made a part of the record.)

#### RESOLUTION

##### Calcasieu Lake 1995/96 Oyster Season and Extension

WHEREAS, the 1995/96 oyster season in Calcasieu Lake has been disrupted by health closures, and

WHEREAS, the oyster resources on the Calcasieu Lake Public Oyster Grounds have been surveyed and samples indicate that there is a significant oyster resource on the public grounds to accommodate a season extension, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:435.1.G. allows for season extensions to compensate for health closures,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the 1995/96 oyster season in Calcasieu Lake shall be extended through March 31, 1996.

Glynn Carver, Chairman  
La. Wildlife & Fisheries  
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary  
La. Department of Wildlife &  
Fisheries

#### DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B) and 967 and under the authority of R.S. 56:6(25)(a) and R.S. 56:435.1, notice is hereby given that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission finds that imminent peril to the public welfare exists and hereby adopts the following emergency rule:

The 1995/96 oyster season in Calcasieu Lake shall be extended through March 31, 1996.

Glynn Carver  
Chairman

Chairman Carver asked how the next item, Report on Bioprofile and Stock Assessment for: Striped Mullet, Black Drum, Sheepshead and Southern Flounder, would be presented? Mr. Corky Perret stated Act 1316 required the Department to prepare bioprofile and stock assessments for the four listed species. These reports were to be given to the Legislature prior to March 1, 1996. Commissioner McIlhenny asked if the Commission was to prepare these reports or the Department? Mr. Perret stated the law read the Commission prepare, but the Commission's staff was the Department. Commissioner McIlhenny asked if the staff prepared the reports and was it fatally flawed from a legal point of view? Then he stated he did not want to be charged with malfeasance at his first meeting. Mr. Don Puckett stated the Commission can adopt the report from the staff, thereby making it the Commission's report. Commissioner McIlhenny asked if Mr. Puckett had researched this question and was he familiar with legislative intent when the bill was passed on how the report should be developed. Then Commissioner McIlhenny asked the Chairman if the Commission has its

**EMERGENCY CLOSURE OF  
MOLLUSCAN SHELLFISH WATERS IN LOUISIANA**

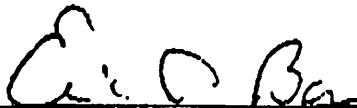
Pursuant to the provision of LSA R.S. 40:5.3, as amended and re-enacted by Act 1 of the First Regular Legislative Session of 1988, all growing areas as depicted by the hashed area on the attached map in Basin 04, to include all or portions of Black Bay, Lake Machias, Lake Fortuna, and Drum Bay, are hereby "CLOSED" to the harvest of all molluscan shellfish until further notice.

This emergency closure is being taken as a precautionary measure and supersedes the seasonal reclassification orders for this area.

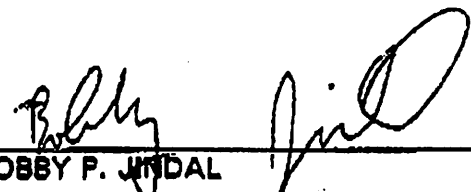
This order is effective IMMEDIATELY.

Opening of these shellfish harvest areas will be conducted as soon as it is determined environmental conditions are within the requirements specified by the National Shellfish Program Manual of Operations, Part 1, Sanitation of Shellfish Growing Waters.

So Ordered this 23rd day of February, 1996.

  
ERIC T. BAUMGARTNER, M.D., M.P.H.  
State Health Officer  
Office of Public Health

February 23, 1996  
Date

  
BOBBY P. JINDAL  
Secretary  
Department of Health and Hospitals

Feb. 23, 1996  
Date

Attachment: map

Commissioner Gisclair asked what happens if the Commission does not vote for the moratorium at the next meeting? Mr. Bowman stated they would provide as much information to the Commission as possible prior to the next meeting.

Mr. Dennis Pixon, a oyster fisherman, asked where does he stand with his relocated area in St. Bernard Parish that is not associated with any of the areas in Plaquemines Parish? He then asked if he would be delayed in working his leases and bettering himself? Mr. Puckett stated if it was not directly affected by the project or an area set aside for mitigation, then they would go ahead and issue the lease.

Mr. George Barisich stated the Caernarvon project has resulted in the loss of oyster production on private oyster leases, eliminated brown shrimp production for the past four to five years, and now, because of the increase in freshwater, the oysters created are covered with mussels and are worthless. Secretary Jenkins asked for Mr. Bowman to come and state the truth on what Mr. Barisich just stated. Mr. Bowman stated they could provide the correct data. Chairman Carver stated, with the Commission voting to delay action on the moratorium, there was a need for more information and asked it be supplied.

Resolution and Declaration of Emergency to Re-open Oyster Season on Public Oyster Seed Grounds was presented by Mr. Ron Dugas. A joint resolution was passed by the legislature during the Special Session urging the Commission to consider extending the oyster season until April 30, 1996 on all grounds previously opened. The Department has reviewed the information and was now presenting a Resolution and Declaration of Emergency for the Commission to act upon. A massive health closure occurred in one of the primary public grounds that prompted this request from the legislature. Chairman Carver asked Mr. Dugas to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Babin made a motion to accept the Resolution. Commissioner Cormier seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition. Captain Peter Vujnovich asked when would this action go into effect? Mr. Dugas stated it would be effective immediately.

(The full text of the Resolution and Declaration of Emergency is made a part of the record.)

#### RESOLUTION

Emergency Re-Opening of the  
1995/96 Season on the Public Oyster Grounds

Adopted by the  
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission  
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

April 11, 1996

- WHEREAS, R.S. 56:433 provides that the Public Oyster Seed Grounds may be opened on the Wednesday following Labor Day which in 1995 was September 6, and
- WHEREAS, the oyster resources on the "Public Oyster Seed Grounds and Oyster Seed Reservation" were surveyed and the available supply and size variation has been determined, and
- WHEREAS, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission established the 95/96 season on the "Louisiana Public Oyster Seed Grounds and the Sister Lake, Hackberry Bay and Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation" not currently under lease to open one-half hour before sunrise on September 6, 1995, and established the season in Calcasieu Lake.
- WHEREAS, these areas were scheduled to close on April 1, 1996.
- WHEREAS, there are provisions under R.S. 56:433 B(1) for extensions through May 15th of each season after considering the recommendation of the Oyster Task Force, and
- WHEREAS, R.S. 56:6(25)(a) allows the Commission, through its Secretary to set seasons, times and places, based on biological and technical data for all fish for the purposes of management of fishery species for the maximum continuing social and economic benefit to the State without over fishing, and
- WHEREAS, House Current Resolution No. 5 of the 1996 Special Session urges and requests the Commission to extend the season on all the previously opened public oyster grounds to one-half hour after sunset April 30, 1996.
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the season on those public oyster grounds previously opened by extended to one-half hour after sunset April 30, 1996, and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take emergency action if necessary, to close areas if oyster mortalities are occurring or to delay the season or close areas where significant spat catch has occurred with good probability of survival, or where it is found that there are excessive amounts of shell in seed oyster loads, and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary will also have the authority to take emergency action to reopen areas

previously closed if the threat to the resource has ended.

Glynn Carver, Chairman  
La. Wildlife & Fisheries  
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary  
La. Department of Wildlife &  
Fisheries

#### DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B) and 967, and under the authority of R.S. 56:6(25)(a), R.S. 56:433 and R.S. 56:435.1, notice is hereby given that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby declares:

1. The oyster season on the public oyster grounds are to be re-opened and extended to one-half hour after sunset April 30, 1996.

2. The Bay Junop Oyster Seed Reservations will remain closed during this extension.

Glynn Carver  
Chairman

A Notice of Intent on Disabled Hunters Permit was presented by Mr. Tommy Prickett. The Notice of Intent would promulgate a rule that would provide additional access to the outdoors for disabled hunters. The Department currently issues disabled permits in various forms with the most popular being for the use of a crossbow during the deer season. This action would also provide special hunts on Wildlife Management Areas, and special ATV trails. One of the biggest problems was the availability of the permit as long as a doctor's note was received. The Department asked handicapped hunters groups to work with them so legislation could be developed that would tighten up the access to these permits. Act 1226 of the 1995 Regular Session was passed that mandated the Department and Commission to do certain things. One was the development of three classes of disabled permits, and these included: wheelchair bound; mobility impaired and amputee of the upper extremity. The Commission was mandated to adopt rules and regulations to put this new system into place. Mr. Prickett then discussed how the rule was developed and how it would work. The process to obtain one of these three class permits was then explained. The permits would be issued for life and would represent a permanent permit. This permit system is rather complicated, stated Mr. Prickett, but should provide quality access to the outdoors. Chairman Carver

RESOLUTION

1996/97 Season on the Public Oyster Grounds  
Adopted by the  
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission . -  
August 8, 1996  
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:433 provides that the Public Oyster Seed Grounds may be opened on the Wednesday following Labor Day which in 1996 is September 4, and

WHEREAS, the oyster resources on the "Public Oyster Seed Grounds and Oyster Seed Reservation" have been surveyed and the available supply and size variation has been determined, and

WHEREAS, Act #46 of the 1992 Legislative Session changed R.S. 56:433B to mandate a sacking area only on the Public Grounds east of the Mississippi River inclusive of Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the "Louisiana Public Oyster Seed Grounds", and the "Bay Junop", and Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservations" and "Hackberry Bay, Sister Lake Oyster Seed Reservations" not currently under lease will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 4, 1996, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the sacking only area of the public grounds is generally Lake Fortuna and Lake Machias to a line from Mozambique Pt. to Pt. Gardner to Grace Pt. at the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take emergency action if necessary, to close areas if oyster mortalities are occurring or to delay the season or close areas where significant spat catch has occurred with good probability of survival, or where it is found that there are excessive amounts of shell in seed oyster loads, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary will also have the authority to take emergency action to reopen areas previously closed if the threat to the resource has ended, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the season for Calcasieu and Sabine Lake tonging areas will open one-half hour before sunrise on October 16, 1996 and remain open until one-half hour after sunset on April 30, 1997.



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the notice of any opening, delaying or closing of a season will be made by public notice at least 72 hours prior to such action.

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Glynn Carver  
Chairman, La. Wildlife and  
Fisheries Commission

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James H. Jenkins, Jr.  
Secretary, La. Department of  
Wildlife and Fisheries

## DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

### Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953 (B) and 967, and under the authority of R.S. 56:433 and R.S. 56:535.1 notice is hereby given that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby declares:

1. The Public Oyster Seed Grounds not currently under lease, Bay Junop, Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation, Hackberry Bay, and the Sister Lake Oyster Seed Reservations will open one-half hour before sunrise September 4, 1996.

2. A designated sacking only area east of the Mississippi River will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 4, 1996. The sacking only area of the public grounds is generally Lake Fortuna and Lake Machias to a line from Mozambique Pt. to Pt. Gardner to Grace Pt. at the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet.

3. The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take emergency action if necessary, to close areas if oyster mortalities are occurring or to delay the season or close areas where significant spat catch has occurred with good probability of survival, or where it is found that there are excessive amounts of shell in seed oyster loads.

4. The Secretary is authorized to take emergency action to reopen areas previously closed if the threat to the resource subsides.

5. The Calcasieu and Sabine Lake tonging areas will open one-half hour before sunrise on October 16, 1996 and remain open until one-half hour after sunset on April 30, 1997.

6. Notice of any opening, delaying or closing of a season will be made by public notice at least 72 hours prior to such action.

Glynn Carver  
Chairman

